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Weekly audited distribution (26 weeks) to 31/12/08 - 42,924 (GEM Series). Audited by Grinter Johnson Ltd. Chartered Accountants.
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, 2009

As Reindeer Parade comes to town:

Police warn Cowbridge residents 'plan Sunday carefully if using the car'

VALE police have issued an appeal to town residents to give themselves ample time on the day of the Reindeer Parade if they want to go to and from their properties using their cars.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

The parade will start at 12noon this coming Sunday, November 29, and PC Mark Goulding, the neighbourhood beat manager for the town, said: "There will be a temporary road closure at 12pm for up to 45 minutes.

"The closure will be from the lights at the top of Cowbridge at Primrose Hill, down to the police station at the other end of the town."

The Reindeer Parade is one of Cowbridge's most popular events and the police are estimating that if the wind and rain relents there could be a bumper crowd.

PC Goulding said: "We're asking people to be patient on the day, because there will be some disruption.

"People visiting Cowbridge should arrive in good time, and bear in mind that parking will be restricted through the centre of the town.

"Eastgate, Westgate and High Street will be out of bounds in terms of parking.

"Additional parking will be provided at Penllyne Estates."

The appeal by the police is in response to incidents in recent years, when some people have become frustrated by restrictions in force in the town.

PC Goulding added: "My advice to local householders is to give yourself enough time go to or leave your property by car.

"It is advisable to have left or arrived by 11am, and people should bear in mind that there might be disruption until 1pm."

Late on Saturday night, Vale Council workers will be erecting barriers on both sides of the road to keep spectators to the pavements during the parade.

Cowbridge town centre will be taken over by the festive spirit on Sunday.

Alun John, the chairman of the Chamber of Trade, told The GEM: "We can't emphasise enough that people coming to the Reindeer Parade should get here in good time, because we're expecting a large crowd – and we'd advise local residents to walk into the town.

"There will be entertainment on the stage from 11am with local entertainers and carol singers.

"The parade will start at the police station at 12pm, go to Millfield Drive, and then make its way to the town hall, where at 12.45pm, Santa will address the crowd.

"Entertainment will continue in the early afternoon until 2pm, and people will then have a chance to shop until 5pm, when Lucy Owen switches on the Christmas lights ."

There is also the Christmas tree festival at Holy Cross Church, and Aubrey Parson also promises to make thing go with a 'Christmas Swing'.

For children, there's the opportunity to meet Santa in the town hall at 2pm – and to get another chance to see the reindeer up close.

● *An innovative wrist band initiative to help trace missing children at the Reindeer Parade will be promoted by South Wales Police.*

The brightly coloured bands include a space for a mobile telephone number or other relevant details, so if a child does become separated and is found, their parent or guardian can be contacted immediately.

ABOVE: Electricians have been working this week to make sure all the Christmas lights are ready for the big switch-on.

LONG-TERM AIM IS NEW SCHOOL

NEW LLANTWIT SCHOOL WILL EASE PRESSURE ON YSGOL IOLO MORGANWG

INCREASING demand for Welsh medium education – and the resultant threat of over-crowding at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg in Cowbridge – has led the Vale Council to plan a new school at Llantwit Major.

by PHILIP IRWIN

The decision has been taken because any expansion of Ysgol Iolo has been ruled out.

In fact, even when Llantwit pupils are attending their own school, the council still expects Iolo Morganwg to be over-subscribed, and has revealed long-term plans to move it to a new site, where a school with capacity for 210 pupils will be built.

The council report gives no clue, at this stage, about where the school might be built.

At present, 40 per cent of pupils attending Iolo Morganwg come from Llantwit Major, and providing free transport for these pupils means seven vehicles at a cost of £96,000 each year.

The council's solution is a "seed" school on the northern edge of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, close to Llanilltud Fawr Primary.

A "seed" school is likely to start initially with temporary classrooms, and the headship will be shared between two existing heads, who will step aside when the school has enough pupils to justify having its own head.

A similar reorganisation will be needed in Barry, Penarth and Dinas Powys, where demand is still exceeding supply. In Barry, Ysgol St Baruc has a capacity of 117 for its reception classes, and demand for September 2010 is forecast to be 128, with a further rise forecast in September 2011 to 145.

The solution for this problem, says the report, is to create a new Welsh medium school in the grounds of the existing Welsh medium secondary school, Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.

In the case of Dinas Powys and Penarth, the existing Welsh medium school, Ysgol Pen y Garth, is also facing a rise in pupil numbers, but in this case, it can be expanded, and numbers are set to rise from 350 to 420.

Between 2001 and 2006, between 10 and 11 per cent of Vale primary school children were receiving Welsh medium education and, between 2007 and 2009, reception intake was consistently above 13 per cent.

However, the council says a Vale-wide survey of school preference revealed that, of those responding, 26 per cent of parents with children under three years of age are very likely to require a Welsh medium school place for their children.

The cabinet member for education and lifelong learning Coun Tony Hampton said: "The survey highlights an unmet or latent demand for Welsh medium education due to the existing distribution of Welsh medium primary schools across the Vale, and the travel distances involved."

Plaid AM Chris Franks said: "The sustained growth of Welsh medium education has encouraged the council to make these plans.

"The new school in Barry is long overdue, as is the starter class in Llantwit Major.

"However, the Vale has not allocated money for the new school. All the plans will be futile if the council fails to properly fund the schemes."

Labour's parliamentary candidate in the Vale, Alana Davies, who is the cabinet member for education in neighbouring Bridgend, said: "The Vale Council has assessed the demand for Welsh medium education and is clearly looking to address the current lack of reception places.

"There are questions around the timescales involved, because if these proposals are to be implemented by September 2010, it is important that there is full consultation about any plans for new provision in all parts of the Vale.," she observed.

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WHATS ON AT

Crafts for Christmas Fayre
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'SO WHY HAVE COUNCILLORS?'

PENCOEDTRE Woods, then, is to be the next part of the diminishing green space in Barry to be sacrificed for housing development.

Before long, the council will have to extend the town boundary to allow more house building to be crammed into Barry.

Rhoose councillor Jeff James is reported as saying that "This land is already allocated for development. It is difficult to oppose it when the officers who are experts have advised that we pass it. "They (the applicants) will only appeal if we don't."

So exactly what is the point, Coun James, of having councillors? Are they there just to rubber-stamp the officers' decisions? And yes the land is allocated in the UDP for development – light industrial development.

Readers will recall the Cemetery Approach fiasco when the public were also told that the developer would appeal if councillors failed to support the officials' decision.

In that case, the developers did appeal and sensibly withdrew, once they viewed the action group's case against the proposals.

The experts were wrong!

The increased pressure from additional cars and people from yet more housing will have a further impact on our town's already creaking infrastructure.

Dennis Harkus, Gibbonsdown

Thanks from Wings appeal

THE Barry branch of the Royal Air Forces Association would like to express their appreciation to the citizens of Barry and the Vale for their support of the branch's Battle of Britain 'Wings' charity collections.

The RAFA charity helps and supports retired and serving personnel and their immediate families, when difficulties and problems occur.

Sincere thanks go to the management and customers of Morrisons and to the ATC Squadrons, 372 (Barry) and 2300 (St Athan) who assisted with bag-packing at the store.

The ATC cadets also visited pubs and clubs in the town and there were donations from various other sources.

The total amount collected and forwarded to RAFA's central headquarters was £4,667.61.

Arnold Close
(Hon branch treasurer)

Event raises £800

I AM pleased to report that our Mid Glamorgan Dolls House & Miniaturists Group show was very successful.

Al our visitors were delighted and said that they would come again next year.

Despite the economic downturn, we were still able to send the Noah's Ark Appeal (Children's Hospital for Wales) a cheque for £800.

Very many thanks to you for your continued support – it really does help – we had visitors from as far afield as Carmarthen, Brecon and Newport.

Robin Tyler, Cardiff (Show secretary)

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Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'STOP WARNING THESE SPEEDING DRIVERS'

WHY do so many motorists, travelling to and fro on the B4265, flash to warn oncoming traffic when the policeman with his speed camera is patrolling this road to catch dangerous drivers speeding and endangering other road users' lives?

He is there to make this road safe in our interest and for our safety.

I take my life in my hands every time I approach Pentre'r Cwrt roundabout from the housing estate because so many vehicles, including lorries and vans, are being literally thrown around this small roundabout.

It makes it dangerous to pull out at a normal pace to turn left or right.

Surely, with all the accidents on this road, motorists should take heed and be thankful to the police!

Mrs SV Clark,
Llantwit Major

'Let's all follow the simple rules'

IN response to 'Keep your dogs on a lead! – plea' letter published in The GEM on November 12, the writer states, "twenty minutes after the first attack, I saw the dogs again and so *put my dog on a lead* and assumed, given the earlier incident, the owners of the dogs would do the same."

I would like to point out that to my knowledge, dogs should be kept on a lead at all times at Cosmeston.

There are indeed clear signs displayed advising this, but the majority of dog owners choose to ignore this.

While being a dog lover myself, I am much more concerned for the safety of my toddler while enjoying Cosmeston, rather than dogs injuring each other.

Dogs have frequently frightened him by running up to him at speed, appearing from nowhere and the owners not in sight!

Dog owners at The Knap Lake could also do well to read the signage advising dogs to be kept on a lead! This rule does not seem to be policed at either location.

Let's all enjoy the facilities our area has to offer by following a few simple rules!

(Name and address supplied)

Support for offices closure protest

I WOULD like to add my backing to Coun Gwyn John and the residents of Llantwit Major regarding the appalling decision of the Conservative-run Vale Council to close its offices in the town.

For several weeks, local residents have been adding their names to a petition to reverse this decision.

Alongside this, I have run an online petition on my website for people who are opposed to this closure.

I would be grateful if, through your newspaper, I could encourage Vale residents to visit my website at www.alanadavies.co.uk and add their names to the petition to keep this vital local service in Llantwit Major.

Alana Davies,
(Labour parliamentary candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan)

WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

'Name and shame the dog owners'

THERE seems to be a small but hard core of dog owners, living in Highlight Park, Barry, who, on a regular basis, wilfully allow their dogs to defecate on the pavements, particularly on the circuit around Lakin Drive.

They operate between the hours of darkness and carry on with impunity and this happens on a daily basis.

These people should be named, shamed, fined and made to carry out community services, namely cleaning up after dogs on this and other estates.

The Vale Council has limited methods of combating this and sadly, warning stickers on lamp posts did absolutely nothing to deter these owners.

(Name and address supplied)

Thank you for my GEM prize!

TODAY, I managed to get to Filco to spend my GEM prize, the £25 voucher I won through your newspaper.

I would like to thank you all for organising the competitions and to express my delight at being one of the winners.

I enjoyed shopping in Filco and was able to find quite a few items to go in my 'Operation Shoebox' for the troops in Afghanistan on the front line to share my good luck with them.

Jacqueline Wynde, Llandaff

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 3)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur	01.31	11.5	14.08	11.7
27 Fri	02.43	11.8	15.18	12.0
28 Sat	03.46	12.1	16.24	12.5
29 Sun	04.49	12.7	17.16	13.2
30 Mon	05.34	13.5	17.59	13.7
01 Tues	06.28	13.9	18.54	14.1
02 Wed	07.17	14.3	19.46	14.4
03 Thur	07.59	14.6	20.38	14.8

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

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(Emergency number 999)
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FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support -
Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 11.30am (Wed 4-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.
Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.
Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.
Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.
To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.
For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Limited, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL and printed by North Wales Newspapers.

Search for sewer gives Llanblethian gardener a shock

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

A Llanblethian man is hoping that his prize-winning garden can be restored to its former glory after a section of it was destroyed as Welsh Water searched for a blocked sewer.

Craig Wharton, who lives on Church Hill, is very much the 'man in the middle' in the case – because he was unaware that any sewer did run through his property.

In fact, he was shocked to find that Welsh Water did not have a plan of the sewer either – and he has had to watch as workmen dug three different trenches in their search.

In the end, they had to dig to a depth of 12 feet to find the problem.

He told The GEM: "It all started when the contactors knocked on the door with a legal document entitling them to dig to find the point where the sewer was blocked.

"I was shocked when it turned out that they only had a vague idea where the sewer was."

At this point, Mr Wharton was keen to stress that he completely accepted the necessity of tackling the blockage – for public health reasons and in order to solve the problems that were being experienced further up the hill by neighbours.

However, he had always assumed that, in cases such as this, disruption would be kept to the minmum.

The situation is exacerbated because Mr Wharton and his partner have spent an enormous amount of time on the garden, which was featured five years ago in the magazine 'Twenty-five Beautiful Homes'.

He explained: "The garden has been laid out around two apple trees that are several hundred years old – dating back to when the house was part of an estate."

Elsewhere, there are boxed hedges and walkways, and some areas which are almost tropical in appearance in the summer.

Mr Wharton said: "The section where they are looking for the blockage is devoted to a variety of hostas. We collected them from the Hampton Court or Kew Gardens flower shows.

"They cost around £100 each, and there were about 15 in the section that has been dug up."

Although spectacular in the summer, the hostas were not visible at this time of year, but now the root system will have been destroyed.

Clearly, Mr Wharton's concerns centred on whether he would be eligible for adequate compensation from Welsh Water.

A spokeswoman for the company told The GEM: "Dwr Cymru Welsh Water is currently carrying out investigative and repair works on the public sewer at a property in Church Hill. This is essential following a partial collapse of the pipe.

"The public sewer in question was laid by a previous authority during or around 1955 and the records of the sewer held by Welsh Water are historic.

"Welsh Water is not obligated to keep records of pipes laid before September 1, 1989, and the historic records handed down by previous authorities are often used as a guide only.

"Photographs were taken of the garden in question before the works commenced and following the works we will reinstate the garden, which will include replacing any damaged plants.

"We apologise for any disruption that this work may cause and will keep the residents up to date throughout."

Mr Wharton said: "It is encouraging that Welsh Water has been specific about re-instating the plants.

"Nevertheless, it is worrying that they don't have to keep records before 1989. There must be many homes in the area that could find themselves in a similar position.'

Mr Wharton had this piece of advice for fellow gardeners. He said: "Fortunately, we have plenty of photographic evidence to prove what was planted here.

"I think anyone who is proud of their garden should keep a comprehensive record. I had no idea that a sewer ran through our property, so this really could happen to anyone."

ABOVE: Contractors laid waste a corner of a Cowbridge garden, which featured a number of hostas, as they searched for a blocked sewer.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

OBITUARY

FAMILY, friends and neighbours attended the funeral of the late Mrs Cissie Burt, which took place on November 17 at St David's Church, Pencoed.

Following the service, which was conducted by Rev Nick Jones, the cortege proceeded to the Mid Glamorgan Crematorium at Coychurch.

Cissie was a true Pencoed lady, born when it was a small village. She played her part during the Second World War by joining the Women's Land Army at the tender age of 17.

She was sent to work on a farm in Cornwall for four years, eventually returning to work near Pencoed.

Cissie had many interests, some of which she enjoyed with her late husband, Tommy. They were both active members of the Buffs. cissie was also an active member of the Pencoed Mothers' Union and had played a role in the Treoes-based Young at Heart Club.

She will be sadly missed by her many friends, as well as her family.

Our thoughts at this sad time are with Cissie's daughters, Caroline, Angel and Denise and her grandsons.

A moving tribute was paid by Cissie's sister who said Cissie was not only her sister, but also her best friend.

TREOES CAROLS

THIS year's carol service at Saron Chapel, Treoes, will take place on Sunday, December 13 at the earlier time of 2.15pm.

ARTS FESTIVAL

CHILDREN from Llangan Primary will join pupils from Archdeacon John Lewis Church in Wales Primary School, Bridgend, in a St Nicholas Day Christmas concert at Ewenny Priory Church on December 3.

The concert will be hosted by Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale of Glamorgan, at 7pm. Tickets £5 from Llangan School on 01446 772403, Ewenny Pottery (01656 653020) and M Major (01656 664105).

You can now read your Glamorgan GEM online. Log onto www.cowbridge-today.co.uk

How a hero's name was added to the town war memorial

GEM reader Mr RB Donovan of Bridgend, formerly of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Royal Welch Fusiliers, here relates the story of World War 1 hero, Sydney Abraham Hayward, whose name was omitted from all the south Wales monuments, and the efforts of his family to rectify this error in Cowbridge.

SIDNEY Abraham Hayward – Army number 20893 (1892-1917) was the youngest of 11 children, born to George Abraham.

Sydney was baptised in Cowbridge on July 27, 1892. Nothing is known about his childhood until the 1901 census reveals that he was living with his parents at 11 East Village, Cowbridge.

Sydney was lodging with Mr T James at 99 Old Road, Skewen, until he volunteered for active service in the Great War. He joined up in January 1915 in Kitchener's Army.

Sydney was listed as being in the 14th Battalion RWF, but this Battalion was formed in Llandudno.

It was more likely that he was a member of the 14th Service Battalion (Swansea) of the Welch Regiment,The Swansea Pals.

Both of these regiments were part of the 38th (Welsh) Division and saw the same actions, so it is possible to piece together his movements on the Western Front.

Sydney arrived in France on December 2, 1915.

The first action he took part in was the 38th (Welsh) Divison's assault on Mamtez Wood during the July 1916 offensive on the Somme.

This assault cost the Division some 4,000 lives, which is a staggering number as each Battalion was approximately 500-strong, and the Division had seven Battalions.

The 38th (Welsh) Division suffered so many casualties at Mamtez Wood that it did not see any further action for a year while it was strengthened.

The Battalion was next in action during the preparation for the third battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele which started in July 1917 and would start at Pilkem Ridge, as the target.

Sydney was killed at Bosinghe in Belgium just in front of the Yser canal by a barrage from the German artillery while in a small dug out.

While the family was researching Sydney's life it was noticed that his name was not on any of the many Welsh monuments that are dotted around south Wales.

His nephew (also named Sydney), started a series of events that culminated in Sydney's name being added to the Cowbridge War Memorial, This move was made with the Cowbridge town council's full support and led to Sydney having his name inscribed on the town's memorial.

The parade was joined by comrades of his old regiment, including serving members of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and many comrades from other regiments, with the branch Standards being dipped as the bugler played *The Last Post*.

So, after a 90-year absence, his name was added to the memorial.

Credit crunch, or was it just a fairy tale?

LLANBLETHIAN WI NEWS

LLANBLETHIAN WI's annual meeting was a chance for member to show their appreciation of the committee's hard work throughout the year, and possibly to welcome in a new president.

WI county advisor, Jane Powell, conducted the nomination and voting process, a new committee was elected, with minor changes, and Jean Smith consented to lead as president for another year. She acknowledged the unstinting help and advice she has received from long-standing members of committees past and present, and spoke for everyone in thanking the programme committee for their inspired choices of last year's speakers and in recognising the hard work of all members who organised outings and activities.

Members were then entertained by the drama group, who performed a skit on the credit crunch in the form of a fairy tale, and this was followed by the most popular part of the annual meeting, succinctly listed in the programme as 'Eats'.

The meeting on December 10 is sure to be a sociable one – mince pies and punch are usually a feature! Why not come along to the church hall at 7.30pm and see for yourself? **GT**

NEWS FROM COWBRIDGE MALE VOICE CHOIR

Choir will sing out to support the Christmas Tree Festival

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir will perform at Holy Cross Church tomorrow (Friday, November 27) at 7.30pm in support of this year's Christmas Tree Festival.

Over 50 lavishly decorated Christmas trees on display will add to an incredible atmosphere at the ancient church.

Over the years, Cowbridge Male Voice Choir has made a point of showcasing the rich young musical talent that we are fortunate to have in our area, and to give them the opportunity of performing before a live audience.

As its soprano soloist for this concert, the choir has invited Daisy Evans from Sigginstone, who is currently studying music at The Guildhall in London for this role.

Daisy has a beautiful voice and has sung once before in Holy Cross, when she made a great impression.

This will be the only chance to hear the choir singing in Cowbridge before their annual concert in Cowbridge Leisure Centre on May 22.

Its only other local appearances will be a concert for Rotary charities in Llantwit Major Comprehensive School on February 27 at 7.30pm, and a free concert on the Glanfa stage of the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff at 1pm on Saturday, March 6.

The proceeds from the concert in Holy Cross will be shared between the church restoration fund and Velindre Hospital in Cardiff – thus adding yet another major charity to the ever-increasing list supported at home and abroad by Cowbridge Male Voice Choir.

The choir will be giving its services free-of-charge as a way of thanking the church for giving it a place to rehearse when its previous practice hall at the Jane Hodge Holiday Home at Trerhingyll became unavailable last September.

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Twm (just seven years old) wins a top singing competition!

ABOVE: Heol Y March girls choir.

RIGHT: Twm Aled.

TWM ALED of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Cowbridge is celebrating after winning a national singing competition.

Twm sang 'Hen Wraig Fach', a traditional Welsh folk song, to capture first prize at the recent Gwyl Cerdd Dant Festival, held this year in Newport.

Twm, aged seven, took first place in the under-12 section. The annual competition, which celebrates Welsh folk traditions – singing, dancing and music – was this year celebrating its 75th year.

Cerdd Dant is a centuries old tradition in which poems are sung, with a harp as accompaniment.

Also celebrating a first at the Gwyl Cerdd Dant were 'Heol y March' Girls Choir – based in Welsh St Donats. The choir, under the tuition of singing supremo Eleri Roberts of Heol y March, captured first prize for their rendition of a carol 'Y Nadolig'.

The choir also won second prize for their interpretation of 'Sosban Fach' – Llanelli Scarlets' signature rugby song.

FESTIVE TREATS

THE public is invited along to a Christmas coffee morning and table top sale at Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major, on Saturday, November 28, from 10am-12noon.

All proceeds will go to St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major. There will be a raffle, tombola, cakes, cards, refreshments.

Tell us about it!
email your news to The GEM at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN
Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

PTA success

THE 'Call My Bluff' wine tasting evening in the Village Hall, organised by the Llancarfan and District Community Association and Llancarfan Primary School PTA, was a great success.

All proceeds are to go to Llancarfan PTA and Hall funds.

Christmas fayre

THE Christmas fayre at Llancarfan school will be held on Saturday, December 5 starting at 1.30pm in both the main school and the hall.

There will, as always ,be a fantastic range of treats and goodies – jolly pots, jewellery and scarves. A magnificent hamper raffle and (of course) Santa in his grotto! Refreshments will be available. Please come and support the school.

Greetings board

AS in previous years, there will be a greetings board in the Fox and Hounds for people to use either instead of cards, or as an extra.

The cost is at your discretion and all the money goes to the Macmillan Cancer Appeal. Please support this excellent charity.

Festive lights

THE village tree lights will be turned on in Llancarfan at 6pm on Saturday, December 6.

Come and join in the carol singing, the carols, mulled wine and mince pies. The lights will be turned on by the winner of the school painting competition.

Vale choir

THE Vale Male Voice Choir will be joining Llancarfan Society's Christmas meeting this year and will perform carols and other choral works in the village hall.

The evening starts at 7.30pm and there will be traditional refreshments.

Boxing Day race

THE traditional Tug O' War and Duck Egg race will again be held on Boxing Day from 12.30pm.

The Duck Egg Sheets are now available at the Fox and Hounds and in church. All proceeds will go to the wall paintings restoration appeal.

Y Bont Faen youngsters do their bit for the Children in Need charity

Y Bont Faen Primary School outlined a gigantic Pudsey Bear with £1 coins to raise money for Children in Need.

It was also an attempt to get a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records!

The school's headteacher, Meic Griffiths, explained that the outline of Pudsey was created using £880 worth of coins – with the help of friends at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.

"We hope that this will be enough to get us into the record books.

"We held a recycled fashion show, sold spotty cakes and ended up live on BBC Radio 2 with Jeremy Vine!

"At the end of the school day, we had raised the grand total of £1,300! A huge thank you to the Y Bont Faen family and friends for their help and support!"

Local bridge clubs raise £744 for charity

FOLLOWING the competitions held recently at each of the four Cowbridge & District Bridge Clubs, results of this year's challenge were as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan BC – Children in Need Pairs, held on November 16: **1st** Glenda Roberts and Sara Bartlett, 59.95 per cent; **2nd** Terry Reilly and John Evans, 58.08 per cent; **3rd** Tony Ratcliffe and Roger Penton, 57.87 per cent.

Cowbridge & District BC – Children in Need Pairs, held on November 17: **1st** Barbara Easterbrook and Colin Easterbrook, 63.44 per cent; **2nd** Anne Hughes and David Wright, 61.56 per cent: **3rd** Pam Higgs and Brenda Grove, 59.89 per cent.

Old Hall BC – Children in Need Pairs, held on November 18: **=1st** Marge Smith and Dennis Smith, 61.61 per cent; **=1st** Terry Evans and Alan Lewis, 61.61 per cent; **3rd** Vida Halford and Beth Forbes, 60.71 per cent.

Penllyne BC – Children in Need Pairs, held on November 19: **1st** John Whitehouse and Ian Dunglinson, 65.96 per cent; **2nd** Judith Nunn and Colin Nunn, 60.29 per cent; **3rd** Mandy Meier and Maggie McPherson, 57.83 per cent.

Many thanks to all who joined in these competitions and those who organised other money-raising activities. The four events raised a total of £744.

DAVID WRIGHT

Cowbridge row on freedom to speak on planning issues

THE row over allowing third-party representation at planning meetings is rumbling on at Cowbridge Town Council – and it has developed into a debate about the individual freedom of councillors to express their views.

The town council had already decided to scrap third party speaking at its planning meetings, after hearing that the Vale had refused to allow it at theirs.

Coun Nicola Thomas, who supported third party rights, represented the town council at a joint meeting with other community councils and Vale councillors to discuss this topic.

"Almost 100 per cent of the community councils were in favour of this, but the Vale councillors were not," she said.

"When it seemed that the vote would go in favour allowing it, they changed the rules so that only Vale councillors could vote. The Vale does not want this, but the community councils do.

"It was a general discussion. I made it very clear what this council had decided, but I did not feel that this council allowed an adequate time for debate on this before a vote."

However, Coun Harris said that this was old hat: "You should not go around undermining that decision in the way that you did."

Coun Thomas denied this: "I did not undermine it. I made our decision apparent, but councillors were also putting forward their own views."

The council also discussed a minute from the finance and general purposes committee, which expressed the view that representatives of the town council sitting on outside bodies should put forward the view of the council, even if they personally disagreed with it.

When the report of the committee came up, Coun Thomas said she was concerned about it.

"Whoever is being accused should be allowed to explain to this council the circumstances of their action. The committee is sitting in judgement of fellow councillors and putting themselves above the council. This is out of order.

"Councillors are being forbidden to put their own views forward at outside bodies. I agree that they should make sure of what the council's view is, but to preclude them from joining in debates is defeating the object of attending.

"Otherwise, the council could just send a letter giving its views. The reason we go to outside committees is to be able to enter free, open and democratic debate and discussions with representatives of the community to come up with solutions.

"The council's representatives should be entrusted by this council to act accordingly and report back. What you are proposing is top-down politics.

"The majority of people who vote for us want politics from the bottom up. We represent the people of Cowbridge and we must have free debates."

She urged councillors not to support the proposal from the committee, otherwise they would be endorsing a left wing dictatorship which would silence the voice of the people of Cowbridge for the future.

Coun Len Taylor said he was taken aback by her remarks: "This was a simple matter that had been raised under any other business. I am flabbergasted by references to a left wing dictatorship. You have taken things to the extreme."

Coun Jon Harris warned that her remarks did her no credit, but Coun Thomas was unrepentant.

"This is an acorn that will grow into an oak," she claimed. "We should not silence people's voices. I agree that we must make the council's views clear but as a member of a committee, I should be able to take part in debates.

"We should all entrust our fellow councillors to look out for the views of the council and of the electorate. This motion could be detrimental for the future."

Coun Jon Harris said that if a councillor, who was representing the council at a meeting, found that he or she could not put forward the council's view, they should consider their position.

"You can only put forward the council's views, but you have read an incredible amount into this."

Coun Gwen Baty said she did not like references to a left wing dictatorship as Cowbridge was a totally non-political council.

"I would not sit here if it was not non-political," she added.

Coun David Morris said that if politics came into the council, either right, left or centre, his resignation would be immediately on the table.

To give, or not to give, that is the question!

COWBRIDGE Town Council has stuck to its policy of only donating money to local good causes, rather than national appeals.

The council was asked to clarify its policy by the finance and general purposes committee. Chairman Len Taylor told the council that the council's policy had been set a long time ago and the committee was seeking confirmation, but he said those who disagreed could speak up now.

Coun Gwen Baty said that there were some causes like the Wales Air Ambulance that, although an All Wales charity, benefited local people.

"We should have a big enough remit so that we can aid things like the Air Ambulance."

However, Coun Taylor said the view of the committee was that they would not regard this as a directly local charity and would recommend that it was not given money.

But Coun Baty recalled that in the past, it had never been a policy to avoid giving to causes that the council feels it should assist: "I do not want the remit narrowed," she insisted.

Coun Jon Harris said that the council had given money to many organisations that affect the area and people, but that many requests only had a tenuous link with the area.

The council had helped organisations like the Urdd in the past and he pointed out that any requests the committee was unsure about could go to full council.

Coun Geoff Cox stated that the committee was seeking a clearer definition of what they should give money to.

"They are all very worthy and they are all short of money. You could say that all of them affect people in Cowbridge, but we are looking for a clearer way forward so people can see what we are doing."

Coun Jon Harris felt the policy should remain loose, to give the council flexibility. It was agreed to stick to the same guidelines, with the proviso that the full council would make decisions on anything the committee was unsure about.

YSTRADOWEN WI NEWS

THIS month's speaker, Steve Jarvis, took members into the land of confectionery and cake decorating – to reveal the art of making a very rich gateau!

For 'demonstration' purposes he made the gateau with a plain sponge, butter cream and chocolate. Little touches make all the difference we were told; For instance – just add a little sherry or kirsch.

The gateau was eventually decorated with little flowers piped with jelly centres, and chocolate leaves.

There were two raffle prizes and the first ticket out would have the choice of winning the gateau or the normal raffle prize. The winner was Gaynor Powney, who opted for the gateau.

Many of the members are attending 'Deck the Hall' day at St David's Hall, Cardiff, and at the December meeting the members will enjoy a social evening with refreshments – please bring a plate'.

This year, our 'Pennies for Friendship' amounted to £36.50, which was sent to "The Associated Country Women of the World'.

In January, members will all 'descend' on The Bear Hotel for their Christmas celebration evening out.

Meanwhile, we wish all the local WI groups a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

AM

Pyjamas and Plaits raise cash for Children In Need

STUDENTS from Stagecoach Cowbridge and Bridgend supported Children In Need by wearing 'Pyjamas and Plaits' to their Stagecoach sessions last week, instead of uniform.

Principal Helene Reynolds explained: "This year, we were particularly keen to support the appeal, given the recent news that the Stagecoach Charitable Trust, Interact has been awarded £32,001 from Children In Need for a project in Manchester, beginning early 2010.

"This project will work with the most vulnerable children from an inner-city area of acute deprivation, with a reputation for teenage crime.

"The project will enable the children to develop self-esteem and learn 'skills for life' through attending Interact sessions in drama, dance and singing. A fantastic project, and always wonderful to see how much children can benefit and learn from being involved in the performing arts.

"Everyone had great fun and raised a fantastic £340.00 for the Children in Need Appeal," she reported.

Carol service to remember loved ones

A carol service is being held in Llantwit Major to give relatives a special opportunity to remember loved ones they have lost.

Local funeral directors,WA Brown & Son, are inviting residents to attend the service at St Illtuds Church on Tuesday, December 1, at 7pm.

A spokesperson explained: "It will be a time when we can think of those we have lost and share this service with other people.

"Coffee, tea and mince pies will be served in the church following the service.

"We are also inviting people to take a 'remembrance tag', write a message on it and hang it on the remembrance Christmas tree at the funeral home across the road on a week day leading up to Christmas."

'We are the champions' will continue

POLICE have denied that the future of the 'We are the Champions' inter-schools sports competition, which they run, may be under threat.

Coun Jon Harris, mayor of Cowbridge, reported that he had attended the event, which is very popular, but an announcement was made by a police officer that it would not be continuing because of the merger of the Bridgend and Vale police divisions.

"He got booed out of the door by everybody present. I think they may change their minds as a result. It's a lovely day with very enthusiastic children.

"I don't think that the new police hierarchy realised what it was all about."

A police spokesman said that there had been a misunderstanding and the event would definitely be taking place next year.

'Calm drivers down on Boverton Road'

I WRITE to express my thanks for the prompt action taken by Llantwit Major police following an incident that occurred on Boverton Road, Llantwit Major recently.

Calming measurers should be installed there as the speed of vehicles on Boverton Road is excessive.

People ignore the flashing sign alerting drivers to the 30mph limit and since the speed camera was deactivated some months ago, drivers' speed has certainly increased.

(Name and address supplied)

One way to avoid critics!

LET us not write off our new European president as a mouse just yet – we read that once, in order to avoid their criticism, he changed the door locks on a meeting room to be used by his opponents.

He is a federalist who wants the EU to have its own source of tax income. The EU is already way beyond democratic control; if it gets its own income it will be beyond any control whatsoever.

RH Bradshaw, Cowbridge

HISTORY LECTURE

THE Cowbridge and District Local History Society's next meeting will be on Friday, December 4, at 7.30pm, in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge, when The Maud Gunter Memorial Lecture 'The Treachery of the Blue Books' will be given by Gwerfyl Gardner.

Mince pies and punch will be served afterwards.

TV switchover starts on 3 March.

Questions? Call 08456 50 50 50 (English language), 08458 48 48 48 (Welsh language).

get set for digital

Christmas Events 2009

BARRY TOWN CENTRE

CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE

King Square, Saturday 28 November, 12noon to 6pm

A free fun-packed event which will include street entertainers, fire jugglers and a live music stage featuring: Impulse 11, All that Jazz, Railroad Bill, RAF St Athan Brass Band, Shooting the Moon and Mabon. Don't miss the new real Christmas tree on the Square that will be lit up at 5pm.

SANTA'S GROTTO

Central Park, Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 December
10am - 4pm on Saturday and 10am - 3pm on Sunday

Meet Santa in his log cabin grotto, listen to festive live music from Samba Galez and the RAF St Athan Band, and marvel at the Christmas Street Entertainers. £3 per child (includes a gift).

BARRY ISLAND

WINTER WONDERLAND

From Saturday 5 December to Sunday 3 January 2010

Barry Island Square will be hosting a festive open air ice rink for the first time ever this Christmas. The synthetic ice rink will be open daily from 2pm to 8pm midweek outside of the school holidays and from 12noon to 8pm during the school holidays and weekends. Skating costs £3 per adult and £2.50 per child. Don't miss this unique experience of skating by the sea!

FESTIVE TRAINS

Saturday 5, 12 & 19 December, from 11am to 4pm

Travel in style to the Winter Wonderland! 'Barry Rail Centre - Tourist Railway' will be running a Christmas themed diesel train from the Good Shed Waterfront Station to the Barry Island Station. Free parking will be available at the Good Shed site. Cost will apply for travel and ticket includes refreshments.

For further details please call the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Events Officer on 01446 704737 or go online at www.visitthevale.com

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Councillors will be asked to explain themselves

Cowbridge row over office closure

THE three Vale councillors who represent Cowbridge are to be asked to meet with the town council to explain their views on the closure of the town's cash office in Eastgate.

Invitations will be extended to Coun Hunter Jarvie and Coun Val Ellis. The third member is Coun Geoff Cox, who is also a member of the town council.

The council received a copy of the report that went to the Vale cabinet which recommended closure of the cash offices in Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth.

The cabinet heard that there had been a fall of almost 14 per cent in the number of people choosing to pay bills in the cash offices over the past 10 years.

The report said that the location of the offices was historical and took no account of settlement changes with both Rhoose and Dinas Powys now having larger populations than Cowbridge.

The cabinet was told that people would be able to use post offices to pay council tax and other bills, which would boost the survival of post office branches.

Rubbish and information leaflets would be made available through the libraries. The closure will produce a saving of £140,000 a year.

The cabinet decided to approve the closures and then have talks with the relevant town councils about alternative provision of services now given at the cash offices.

Cowbridge Mayor Jon Harris said that consulting the town councils after making the decision was like shutting a stable door after the horse had bolted.

"Llantwit Major Town Council has opposed the closures and there has also been a petition organised by Jane Hutt AM. Most of our town councillors signed this petition as individuals. My own view is that it would be deplorable to have the Cowbridge office closed.

"There must be a degree of local service provision, particularly in this area of the Vale. Not everything should be concentrated in Barry," he insisted.

Coun David Morris supported this and said everything was disappearing into a black hole called Barry: "All our services are going there. There will be new settlements around Cowbridge in the future. I also do not trust the percentages quoted in reports – they are meaningless.

"This is a cash-saving exercise and there has been no consideration of the effect on the population of Cowbridge, where we have a large percentage of elderly people.

"They are talking of closing up the office and freeing up this space. I believe that they will close that office and put the building up for sale. We must make our strong views known, and our concerns for the future of Cowbridge."

Coun Jon Harris said that people visiting the office now have a face-to-face interview and get the guidance and help they need: "You cannot do that on the end of a cash machine."

Coun Jon Wilks said he had been astonished, since joining the council recently, at how many people had spoken to him on this matter.

"Their reaction is not positive. They want our views as a town represented and the view of the town is very strongly that this office must be saved at all costs: "£140,000 is not a worthwhile amount of money to save when you consider the savings that could be made elsewhere.

"Once this office has gone, it will never return. It is short-term opportunism."

Coun Gwen Baty said that she was concerned about the extra pressure which could be placed on the town council and its staff by having to handle queries normally dealt with at the cash office.

"Lots of people don't know how to use pay point. It's a long way to go and collect your refuse sacks from the library and anyway, it's not their job to distribute these bags. They have been trying to close Eastgate because they want to sell that valuable building to raise money for council funds," she claimed.

Coun Len Taylor said that, speaking as devil's advocate, people must realise that the public sector had to prune its expenditure and the Vale had to look hard at its finances.

"This is what they are doing, but they have gone about it the wrong way. If they had consulted us first, we could have come up with a satisfactory solution instead of the antagonism that has been produced.

"We should have discussions with them to find ways of providing these services."

"The Eastgate building would produce £600,000 or more if it was sold.

"They have taken a decision and now want discussions with the town council. They could have done that first."

Coun Baty said that they could still provide the service in Cowbridge, even if the building was sold: "They could move the office to Old Hall, which they also own."

Coun Nicola Thomas said that the issue of the Vale making a decision before consultation was a worrying trend and had happened before.

"We must be careful that they are not expecting us to rubber stamp this decision, rather than representing the people of Cowbridge."

Coun David Morris maintained that the town council could expect little or no support from the three Vale councillors for the town. He said they should be notified of the council's views.

Coun Jon Harris said that the town council must write a "fairly strong" letter to the Vale and also ask the three Vale councillors about their views.

"We must register our objection and show our disappointment that we have not been consulted. There are other options that they have not bothered to explore."

Coun Andrea Burges supported him and said that at least one of the three Vale councillors should attend a meeting to speak to the town council.

Coun Harris said that alternative options could be outlined to them: "They have not had the courtesy to consult us," he added.

Coun Taylor said that some Vale councillors attend meetings of community councils and give them a report.

"We have no direct communication with our three Cowbridge councillors. One should attend each meeting and give us a report."

It was agreed to invite all three councillors to attend a meeting to discuss the issue.

"They must come and tell us what their views are," Coun Harris added.

Coun Andy Banks pointed out that all three go to meetings of the chamber of trade.

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'A VISION OF A MORE CONFIDENT WALES'

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

LAST week, Wales hit the headlines with the publication of the report on the work of the 'All Wales Convention', chaired by Sir Emyr Jones Parry, former UN Ambassador to the UK Government.

Sir Emyr was given the challenging task of finding out what people in Wales thought about the current arrangements for the Welsh Assembly Government to develop policy and legislation to meet Welsh needs.

He chaired a convention, including people from all walks of life and all our major political parties, to consult and take on board the views of the people of Wales.

He held public meetings across the country, including one in Barry last summer.

In his foreword to the report published last week, he said: *"The future governance of our nation and how it should now move forward is a vital topic for Wales. Politics is bread and butter, and affects us all. Moreover, for me, it was an opportunity to put something back into Wales after a long period representing the United Kingdom as a whole."*

The conclusions to the widespread debate and consultation are important. In summary, the report says that the people of Wales have accepted devolution, and recognise that it represents some degree of self government.

Public attitudes appeared to have 'settled in favour of devolution', with few supporting either independence or the arrangements we had before 1997 with the former Welsh Office.

The report says there appears to be significant appetite for increased devolution, with solid support for primary law-making powers.

The research undertaken by the convention showed 72 per cent favour the present or somewhat increased devolution. Sir Emyr says that the judgement of the convention is that a 'yes' vote for more powers is obtainable, but goes on to say, "but the evidence we have collected underlines that there can be no certainty about this".

The convention was set up as a commitment under One Wales to monitor public opinion and assess the levels of support to trigger a referendum on further law-making powers for the Assembly before the end of this term of the Assembly.

We now move to consider the report and its implications with a statement made by the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, on Tuesday in the Senedd leading to a debate in the New Year to test out this 'appetite' for further devolution.

One of the encouraging aspects of the convention was its engagement with young people in Wales, via our schools and youth forums.

Our young people are gaining confidence about their opportunities to influence the Welsh Assembly, to make their voices heard and to give their views about the policies and services we develop and provide.

This was clearly the case last Friday when we celebrated 'Children's Rights Day' in the Senedd as part of the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Earlier this year, I hosted a meeting of all the UK Children's ministers in Cardiff and we agreed to make a joint statement on Children's Rights Day and this was published last Friday.

In the statement, we said that one of the most important goals is to make England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland the best places for all children and young people to live.

As part of this, we are committed to working progressively towards implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As well as launching the first Children's Advocacy and Advice Line in the UK and an Action Plan for implementing the UN Convention in Wales, the First Minister, Children's Commissioner and I all spoke about the importance of promoting and applauding the contributions of our young people in Wales, in their homes, schools and communities.

Their commitment to voluntary work, to supporting each other, to enjoying sport, leisure and cultural activities, as well as working hard to make good progress in their studies at school, college, in apprenticeships and university is manifest.

Children and young people often have to overcome many barriers and difficulties they experience in their lives, including social and financial inequalities which we are seeking to tackle as a government.

This is where the work of the All Wales Convention is important. Could we do more with more powers? I have successfully steered through a number of pieces of legislation over the past few years to improve education and we have developed many new programmes, like the Foundation Phase, Welsh Baccalaureate and Flying Start.

We need to use all the levers and powers we have to make government work for our families, communities, businesses and the debate about the referendum must engage all those who want to see Wales develop in confidence for the good of all.

The First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, made an important speech at the Welsh Centre for International Affairs last week and in it he said: **"**"The first decade of devolution in Wales has transformed the nation's relationship with the world and created a new confidence. Far from becoming more inward looking, devolution forced us, as a nation, to put our heads above the parapet.

"The kind of Wales I want to see is open-minded, competitive but constructive, outward-looking, responsible, engaged and adaptable. If we act that way we'll be using the demonstrable strengths of our people."

Representing the Welsh Assembly Government and the UK Government at the European Education and Youth Councils in Brussels this week provided me with the opportunity of putting Wales centre stage, and I was privileged to play that part on behalf of the people of Wales.

New oil depot offers discount

INDEPENDENT oil distributor, Watson Fuels' new depot at Cardiff's Wentloog Corporate Park, supplies local communities with domestic heating oil, plus industrial and agricultural fuels and lubricants.

To celebrate the launch, customers can claim a £10 discount on their first order for all heating oil orders over 900 litres and lubricant orders worth over £200.

"To receive the discount, all customers have to do is quote CF10 when making their order. The first five lucky customers quoting CF10 will receive a £25 discount," said staff member Kate Watts.

"We've a local team with great experience who can offer help and advice on all manner of fuel-related inquiries.

"We're committed to continuing the Watson tradition of supplying quality products and a personal, friendly and professional service to customers throughout south Wales."

To claim the discount, call 029 2077 9875 before January 31, 2010.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

IN The GEM on November 8, it was reported that Mr Stan Hayward had been tracing his family history.

A few years ago, his research revealed that one of his uncles had been omitted from the Cenotaph in Cowbridge – a mistake he was able to rectify.

Further research revealed another uncle, Benjamin Hayward, who had served in the Royal Navy and who died in 1916, lay in an unmarked grave in Wick Chapel.

In 1914, when Benjamin was called up, he married Margaret Williams of Broughton and had one child Aubrey, and was posted as a stoker to the warship *HMS Challenger*.

Unfortunately, Mr Hayward has been unable to establish the exact site of his uncle Benjamin's grave.

After discussions with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, it was suggested that a memorial wall plaque be placed on the outside of Wick Chapel.

On Sunday, November 15, a special service was held at Wick Chapel to dedicate a plaque recognising the chapel graveyard as an office War Graves site.

It was attended by Mr Stanley Hayward and members of the family.

The standard bearer of the Llantwit Major branch of the Royal British Legion and other members of the Legion were present at the ceremony – along with members of Wick's sister chapel at Nottage.

The Silent Tribute was said by local ex-serviceman Bill Austin.

Although initially a solemn occasion, it was also a warm, satisfying culmination of many years' research and correspondence, with visits by Mr Rose of the Western European Commission for War Graves to meet Julianne Morgan, the chapel's layreader.

Mr Stanley Hayward was happy that his uncle's resting place was at last officially recognised.

The Hayward family are well-known locally and kept the Bungalow Café in Marcross for many years.

CHRISTMAS services at Wick Chapel: Sunday, November 29 (Advent Sunday); Sunday, December 6 – The Gift of Christmas; Sunday, December 20 – Service of readings, carols.

GET well soon to Eva Morgan of Blaen Dedwi, Wick, following her recent fall and stay in hospital.

THE local produce market on November 21 at the Church Hall, St Brides Major, was again very successful with many more stalls. The next produce market will take place on December 19.

A CHRISTMAS fayre will take place at the church hall on Saturday, November 28 at 10.30am. Parish Christmas cards are available £2 for 10 (mix and match).

£2,000 donation to Gambia fund

MORE than £2,000 was raised at a 'Water for the Gambia' event, held in the castle dining hall of Atlantic College last week, attended by more than 180 people.

"The money raised was twice the expected amount. A big thank you to all who helped, supported and attended the event, said spokeswoman Alexandra Wyn Smith.

Carrie opens wildlife garden in Colwinston after cycle marathon

LEFT: Carrie Williams (left) officially opens the new wildlife garden at Colwinston Playgroup

IN MAY, Carrie Williams from the Vale village of Sutton completed a two-day 140-mile marathon cycle ride from Cowbridge to Coventry – to raise funds for a local playgroup.

On November 15, Carrie, who raised an impressive £1,700, opened the new wildlife garden at Colwinston Playgroup.

Carrie, whose daughter Katie attends the group, said: "The garden was built using the funds from the sponsored bike ride to Coventry.

"The project received further funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales, which was funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

"The funding is administered by Creative Rural Communities of the Vale Council's Rural Regeneration department."

Carrie chose Coventry as her destination because that is where her mother, father and sister live.

On the first day of the ride, she covered 85 miles in five hours, 35 minutes, and on the second 60 miles in four hours, 40 minutes.

A spokeswoman for Colwinston Playgroup said:

"The group would like to thank Carrie for all her efforts, and Jane from Creative Rural Communities for all her support.

"Also special thanks go to Rhod from Tirlun Ltd for the garden design and Kevin Raymond, a stonemason, whose generosity contributed greatly towards to the project."

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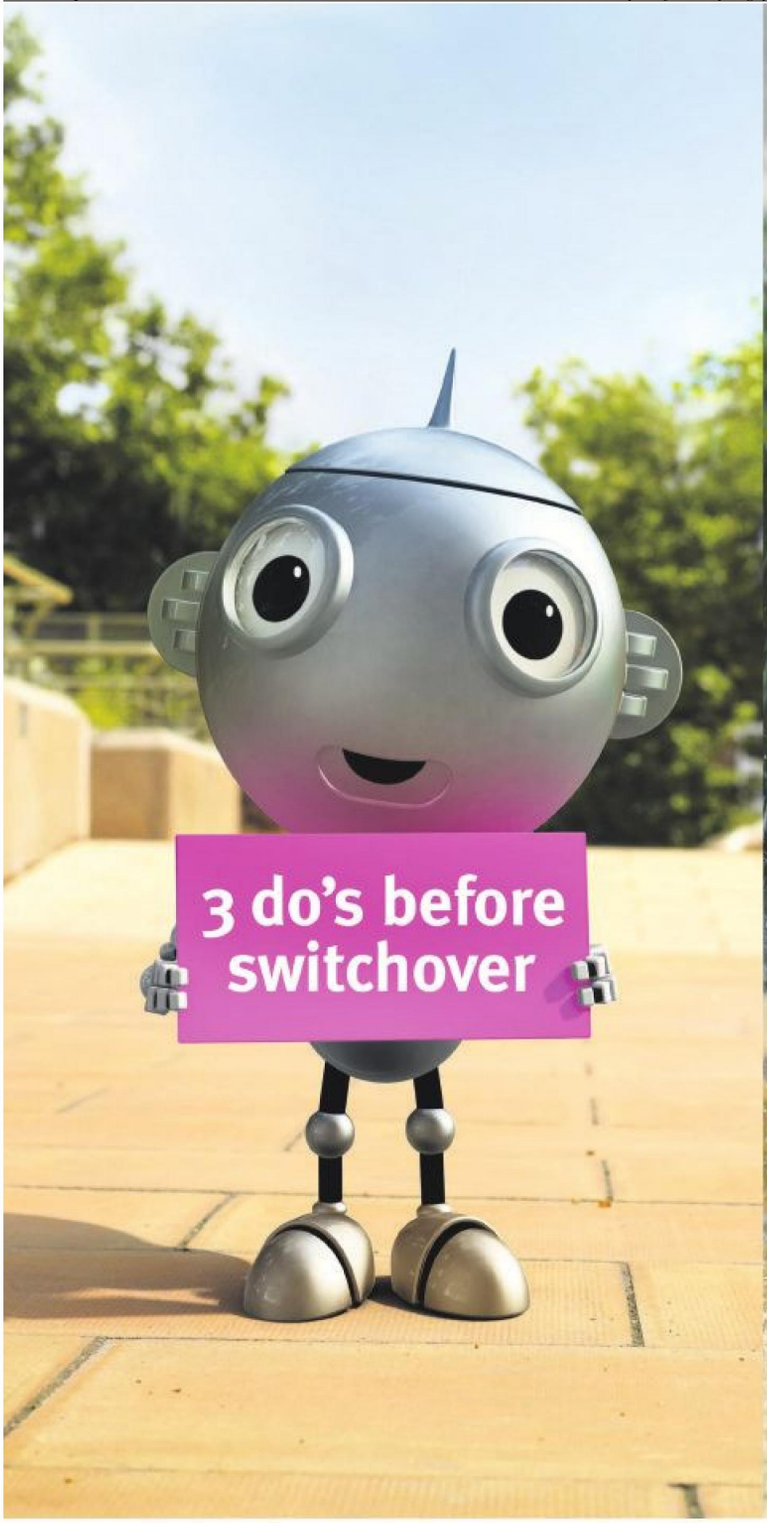

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Fines to bring message home?

YET again, there has been another letter in The GEM about dog fouling – and the owners doing nothing to clear it.

We are having this problem around Colwinston village and on our playing field, which is used by our local school, also our pre-school playgroup.

Having talked about this horrible subject with some of my senior citizen friends, we have come to the conclusion that if one or two owners were to find themselves reported and a fine of £1,000 ensued, it might bring home to people how serious this problem is.

CJ Hawkins, Colwinston

Oriana concert

ORIANA ladies choir is giving a concert of Christmas carols and readings at Llanblethian Church on December 5, at 7pm. Telephone 01446 772047 for details.

Call for planning brief on Cowbridge health centre

COWBRIDGE Town Council's planning committee has called for a planning brief to be prepared for proposals on the Cowbridge Health Centre.

The centre, which is owned by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board, is being replaced. An application has been received for a change of use to financial and professional services in the building. The site lies within a conservation area inside the grounds of Old Hall.

Town councillors are concerned that the open green land around the health centre, which is owned by the board, should remain available for public use and is not fenced off.

The council has lodged no objections to the change of use, but would like a planning brief prepared because the site is so important.

Indian showcase first of its kind in Wales

THE Vale Assembly member, Jane Hutt, attended the recent India Showcase at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, to promote tourism and holiday opportunities in India.

"The event was the first of its kind in Wales and as well as informative exhibits on holidaying in India, there was also plenty of tasty Indian snacks on offer for the public to enjoy!" the AM observed.

IN BRIEF

COWBRIDGE with Llanblethian Town Council has agreed to allow the public telephone to be removed from the telephone kiosk in Llanblethian, so that the red kiosk can be taken over by a local community group.

The box is listed and cannot be removed.

HOLES in the churchyard at Holy Cross are to be filled in and rubble removed.

There has been no further evidence of rat infestation.

Bridgend AM's advice surgeries

CARWYN JONES AM, the Assembly Member for Bridgend, will hold constituency surgeries as follows on December 4:

Bryntirion OCLP Club (1.30pm-2.15pm); Laleston, The Oystercatcher (2.30pm-3.15pm); Broadlands, Llangewydd Arms (3.30pm-4pm);

The AM can be contacted at his Constituency Office, Emlyn House, 36 Caroline Street, Bridgend, CF31 1DQ; telephone: 01656 664320; fax 01656 669349; or residents can email ***Carwyn.jones@wales.gov.uk.***

Maddie (and her ponies) are champs!

A six-year-old pupil at Pendoylan Primary School, Maddie Dalley, was a big success at the Wales and Border Counties annual awards evening in the Village Hotel, Coryton.

Maddie was awarded a trophy, sash and rosette as the 2009 points champion in the lead rein show pony category on her Welsh part bred - ***Redvale Little Mermaid*****.**

By the time she returned to her seat, she was called up again to accept another trophy, sash and rosette for being the 2009 points champion in the lead rein M&M category on her Welsh Section A - ***Dijkzicht Boris*****.**

Her father Neil said: "Maddie was overwhelmed by the response from the audience".

Maddie is pictured with her trophies, sash, and rosettes.

VOLUNTEER SURGERIES

THE Volunteer Bureau will hold outreach surgeries to offer advice and information on the 700+ different volunteering opportunities, as follows:

Penarth Leisure Centre, 1.30pm-3.30pm, Saturday, November 28; Cowbridge Library,. 12pm-2pm, Wednesday, December 2.

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

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Director John Madge said: "We endeavour to stay competitive by doing our best to consistently offer a high level of service. We have been established over 21 years, the same company with the same name."

Fellow director Nick Madge added: "The majority of our work comes from recommendations, and we would therefore like to thank all our customers past and present for supporting Dinas Windows and hope they will continue to do so in the future.

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FIRST COUPLE MOVE INTO A NEW HOME AT HENSOL CASTLE PARK

AN exclusive new residential development based at Hensol Castle Park, which neighbours the Vale Hotel, golf, spa and leisure facility, has welcomed its first residents into their stunning new apartment.

The proud owners of No 1 Talbot House are Malcolm and Diane Sanders, originally from Penllyn, near Cowbridge. They were the first to complete and have now moved into their new three-bedroom apartment in the multi-million pound residential scheme.

The couple, who were looking to downsize from their current home, were attracted by the size, quality and high specification and finish of the apartments at Hensol Castle Park, as well as its unique location.

With it, says Mr Sanders, is a home that will create an easy, happy and stress-free lifestyle.

"We had been looking for nearly four years, for something unique which would suit my wife and I and that our daughter, who is studying at university, can have as her base as well. The quality of these properties is what attracted us – they are very spacious, are obviously in a great location, plus the beautiful finishes inside the apartment were just what we were looking for.

"We are very excited about moving in and starting a new life here. We loved the fact that each apartment is uniquely designed and being based here means we are only 20 minutes from the capital."

Mr Sanders is a keen golfer and the fact that the golf, spa and leisure facilities of the Vale Resort are in walking distance, was a bonus.

"We will be making the most of this great location, you couldn't really ask for more in terms of a lifestyle choice."

The luxury 58-apartment scheme is part of the multi-million pound redevelopment of the grade one listed 17th Century Hensol Castle and its grounds into one of the most prestigious boutique hotel, spa and residential schemes in Wales.

Left to right: Stephen Leeke, Malcolm Sanders, Julie Turner (back), Hannah Sanders, Diane Sanders.

Set within 150 acres of spectacular and historical parkland, phase two of the apartments was launched this autumn, with phase one already completely sold. A total of 18 apartments have now been sold since the launch this summer.

The Hensol Castle Park development, costing an estimated £35m, will see the stunning Hensol Castle transformed into a 50-bed exclusive five-star hotel with an adjoining residential spa, as well as the conversion of a number of buildings within the grounds into of 58 spacious design-led apartments.

The scheme is being developed and released by the owners of the neighbouring Vale Resort, the Leekes Group – an independent, family-run group of leisure and retail businesses owned by group chairman, Gerald Leeke.

Managing director of the Vale Resort and the new Hensol Castle Park, Stephen Leeke, personally handed over the keys to the scheme's first occupiers. He said: "We are delighted to welcome Mr and Mrs Sanders – our very first home-owners to the Hensol Castle Park scheme and wish them a very happy and comfortable life in their new home.

"The scheme has progressed at a pace and we are very pleased by the sales to date, given how the market has been.

Prices start from £290,000 up to £485,000.

Local pupils take part in anti-bullying workshops

CHILDREN from Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan recently took part in interactive workshops to learn more about bullying and its effect on individuals.

The Respect Tour roadshow highlighted collaboration between the Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Anti- Bullying Network, as part of National Anti-bullying Week.

Bridgend and Barry pupils from primary and secondary schools, teachers, support staff and local education authority professionals all took part in the workshops.

These were led by charities and organisations supporting the Assembly Government project, including Children in Wales; Swansea Children Matters, the office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, and the Bridgend Cyber-bullying Bus.

Pupils were challenged about their own behaviour in relation to bullying and given guidance on how to tackle bullying if they experienced it, or saw somebody else as a victim.

Lynda Mattravers, school councillor at Ynysawdre Comprehensive School praised the roadshow, saying: "Bullying is a constantly evolving issue. At our school we have clear anti-bullying policies in place, thanks to guidance from the Assembly.

"However, it's really useful to have an interactive day like this, where we can familiarise ourselves once again with the issues and learn about new practices to stop bullying.

"The children and young people can really get involved – it makes all the difference.

"The workshops I think are a huge success. Bullying is simply unacceptable, and we can never become complacent."

Catherine Jones (15), from Ynysawdre Comprehensive School, Bridgend, said: "I really enjoyed getting involved in the anti-bullying workshops.

"They were really informative, and as a member of the school council, I'm looking forward to taking what we've learnt back into the school."

The Minister for Children and Education, Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale, commented: "No matter how hard we work to tackle bullying, it is still a problem that some individuals have to face every day.

"Eradicating bullying in all its forms is our goal for the Welsh Assembly Government, and I thank the Welsh Anti-Bullying Network for their support to help achieve this."

WI carol service

A CHRISTMAS carol service will be held by Barry WI, at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, on Friday, December 18, at 7.30pm, with Barry Brass Band. All are welcome.

For further details, contact the secretary on 01446 410139.

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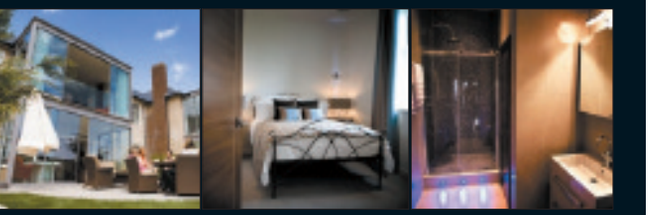

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Peterston organ festival – a hit with local pupils and the Vale community

ST PETERS CHURCH at Peterston super Ely held a highly successful organ festival on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 19 - 21.

On Friday, Peter Hindmarsh, the current organ tuner, showed villagers and two groups of pupils from Peterston and St Nicholas primary schools how the instrument worked.

The visit included a tour of the organ loft.

An organ recital on Saturday featured Dr Gordon Stewart, one of Britain's most well known recitalists. His virtuoso performance enthralled the packed audience. The programme was a varied one, from Handel to Oxley, and was attended by people from all parts of the Vale.

Dr Stewart mingled with the audience at the after- concert supper.

Sunday saw a performance of Corelli's *Christmas concerto* by the Green Dragon String Quartet, prior to the festival thanksgiving service.

OLIVER! ANOTHER HIT FOR ST CYRES SCHOOL!

AUDIENCES were delighted during November with the latest St Cyres School production *Oliver!*

This musical extravaganza, packed with lively and dramatic singing, along with some first class acting, was performed in the school over two nights.

St Cyres School has a strong tradition of excellent music and drama productions, and this year was no exception.

The resounding success was the result of carefully nurtured talents and an outstanding commitment from all the staff and pupils.

In the leading roles, Zhane Bartlett played Oliver Twist alongside Elliott Thorne, who played Fagin. Emily Thorne played Nancy and Josh Davey-Stewart played The Artful Dodger.

However, as with all productions, it was a team effort, which included a cast from year-7 through to year-12 – and a host of backstage technicians.

The production was a memorable experience for all those involved and had tremendous backing from staff and pupils who have worked on this production for many months.

In particular, a special thank you must go to director Mrs Amanda Sweet, musical director Mrs Becky Fowler Thomas, and assistant musical director, Mr Richard Hopkin, for making these opportunities available to pupils. **PL**

Lively Barney loves his off-lead gallop!

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre

THIS WEEK: "Barney is a lovely dog and lots of fun, says a centre spokeswoman.

"He loves his off-lead gallops around the field, and is also very good on the lead. He gets on with other similar sized dogs, and would benefit from living with another dog for company.

"He's suitable with children aged eight years and over, but he's not suitable to live with cats.

"We have several greyhounds looking for homes at the moment, so if you would love a leggy friend, please come and visit!" a spokeswoman adds.

For more information on Barney or any of the other dogs who are looking for a good home, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend or phone on 01656 725219. Barney and some of his friends are on the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk (click on Rehoming).

Who will give Barney a home? (but no cats, please!)

Fairtrade in Dinas

RESIDENTS from the Dinas Powys area supported a recent Fairtrade shopping evening by spending more than £700 on fairly traded goods.

The local Fairtrade group has recently submitted an application to the Fairtrade Foundation in London for Fairtrade village status, and is currently awaiting a decision.

Cygnet dies from injuries after dog attack at the Knap Lake

A cygnet in the Knap Lake was attacked by a dog on Wednesday, November 18, and despite receiving specialist treatment, he died later.

A spokeswoman for Swan Rescue South Wales said: "On the Wednesday we got a call to say a dog had attacked a swan at the Knap lake – it turned out to be a young cygnet.

"Luckily, although we were hours away, we were able to call on Steve our volunteer, who lives locally, and he was able to pick up the traumatised cygnet in a matter of minutes.

"The following day, we took him to Swindon for specialist treatment but sadly he died overnight."

The spokeswoman added that Swan Rescue South Wales has contacted the Vale Council to inform it of the attack, which had clearly emphasised the need for owners to keep dogs on a lead.

Swan Rescue South Wales can be contacted on 07802 472788 if someone sees a swan in distress.

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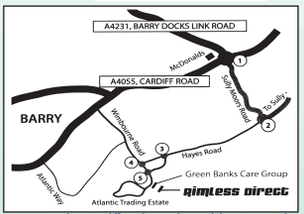

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A Christmas Look at Llantwit Major

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

'Shopping in Llantwit's close community is an altogether more friendly and civilised experience'

THE centrepiece of Llantwit Major's Christmas celebrations will be the switching on of the decorative lights on Saturday, December 5.

This eagerly-anticipated ceremony will be the culmination of a collaboration this year between the town council and the chamber of trade to organise the lights.

The events get under way from about 2pm, when Father Christmas arrives in his grotto at the Town Hall.

There is also a funfair in the adjoining car park for the children to enjoy.

A craft fayre and farmers' market takes place in the precinct, where entertainment starts at 2.30pm, organised by Major Music and Stage Door 1. There will also be some community carol singing.

At 5.10pm, Father Christmas will take part in a lantern parade from the town hall to the precinct, and it is hoped that many local residents and children will turn up with their lanterns. There will be a prize for the best child's lantern. The lights will be switched on at 5.30pm in a ceremony conducted by the Mayor of Llantwit Major, Coun Russell Downe.

Llantwit traders hope that the events of the afternoon will draw in a substantial crowd who will boost trade in the town.

Chamber secretary Janet Moisan said that it had been a difficult year because of the credit crunch, but businesses were hopeful of a much more prosperous 2010 because of the 'Metrix bounce'.

"We hope that the arrival of thousands more people to live in the area will stimulate new businesses, who have previously ignored Llantwit Major, to take another look and set up shop in the town," she commented.

"That will give a wonderful boost to traders and residents alike."

One of the new shopkeepers in the town this year is Stuart Sloan who took over his mother's clothing shop in the precinct when she retired.

He is optimistic about the future: "Llantwit, like other smaller towns, has advantages over big city centres and shopping malls. Our main asset is accessibility, with the shops being a few yards from one of the town's two free car parks.

"We also have good rail connections and are close to the railway station."

Mr Sloan said that Llantwit Major offered a personal service to shoppers and a very friendly atmosphere – which often contrasted with the hustle and bustle of large shops, where staff are too busy to take any interest in an individual shopper.

"We draw people from outside Llantwit anyway," he explained. "People come in from places like Rhoose, St Athan and even Barry and Sully. They like the town's friendliness and they are also impressed by the number of restaurants and pubs serving good food at affordable prices. Eating is a big part of shopping these days."

Mr Sloan added that other visitors to the shops include the walkers and tourists drawn to Llantwit by its historical heritage and coastline.

Llantwit has a surprising range of shops selling many items suitable for Christmas presents – including clothing, scarves, bags, slippers, jewellery, perfume, toiletries, chocolates, books and flowers.

There are also shops selling bric-a-brac, candles, toys and games.

Prices tend to be very competitive as the shops have lower overheads than others in larger centres.

Janet pointed out: "We can offer shoppers an alternative to the overheated, overcrowded stores, which become almost unbearable as Christmas approaches.

"Shopping in Llantwit Major is an altogether more civilised experience and what better way to end the day than with a nice cappuccino, meal or glass of wine!" she added.

The Zenergy shop has many delights!

ZENERGY is an impressive new shop, selling a wide range of gifts and accessories, including: exclusive costume jewellery; crystals; incense and esoteric gifts; accessories for children and teens; and a great range of stocking fillers and gift ideas.

There is also an extensive range of beads to fit all the major brands of bead charm bracelets.

But Zenergy offers a further surprise – a drop-in psychic reading service! The business is owned by Ant Edwards, a renowned psychic intuitive coach, who has returned to Llantwit Major after owning a shop here 10 years ago.

Ant said: "It was always my intention to come back and open a shop that offered something unique, so I have combined my psychic services with a great range of products to suit all ages.

"Llantwit Major is a beautiful town, with traditional buildings and lots of small shops that offer something different for customers."

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A Christmas Look at Llantwit Major

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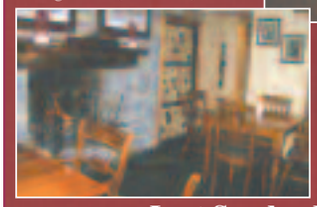

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Welcome to the new owners!

HAVING been an 'infrequent' regular to the Blacksmith's Arms over the years, my husband and I were pleasantly surprised last weekend.

It has a new landlord/manager, a really pleasant enthusiastic Irishman, who made it his business to welcome everyone to the pub with a chat and a pat on the back.

Even our puppy was welcomed through the door!

It would be fabulous if the community can embrace the vigour of this new management and bring the pub back into the hub of the village.

I think maybe the secret to the success of the Blacksmiths may have been found! Welcome!

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BEN'S BARBERS offer a range of services in their new expanded shop at Llantwit Major: hairstyling – patterns – hot towel wet shaves.

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Ben's Barbers St Athan, is now open, too! Monday-Thursday (8am-6pm); Friday (8am-7pm) and Saturday (8.30am-4pm).

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Cowbridge still has problem with anti-social behaviour

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour continues to dominate the crime and disorder figures for Cowbridge.

Insp Mark Taylor has told Cowbridge Town Council that in October, officers dealt with nine incidents out of a total of 24 reported for the month.

There were also four assaults, five thefts from motor vehicles, two drugs-related incidents, two thefts and two criminal damage to vehicles.

But there were no burglaries of any kind, and no car thefts during the month. Insp Taylor had looked into the figures and said nothing was causing him concern. He said that two of the assaults were related to the same person and pointed out that Cowbridge was not a violent town.

Some builders' vans in the town have been broken into, and police have increased patrols and would be keeping a close watch on this in the run-up to Christmas.

He pointed out that October included Halloween, and the anti-social behaviour figures reflected any incidents connected with that.

"But we had a good celebration in the Vale," he said. "Force-wide, the number of incidents were down and in the whole of the Vale there were only 16 incidents related loosely to Halloween."

Police had put every available officer and PCSO out on the streets and they patrolled areas where problems were expected.

"We had a lot of people out working and that's reflected in the results. We did the same on bonfire night.

"We had people at the tennis courts and children's play parks. They are on our radar and we are monitoring them very carefully."

He said that he had put in a bid for funding for extra officers over Christmas, especially on Saturdays, to police the shopping centres and deter shoplifters and pick pockets.

He said that even if funding was not available, he would ensure high profile policing by changing shift patterns.

He was thanked by Mayor Jon Harris for the way in which the Remembrance Sunday parade was policed.

Insp Taylor replied that it was a pleasure to help the community on these occasions and to have support from the town council.

Christmas lights for town hall

NEW Christmas lights are being purchased to go on top of Cowbridge Town Hall.

Clerk Andrew Davies told Cowbridge town councillors that when the contractors collected the lights from storage, they found that the ones for the hall were defunct.

The bulb holders would not work.

He has received a £400 quotation to replace the coloured lights with eight five-metre lengths of low energy icicle lights, which will be cheaper to run.

He said that the work would be completed in time for Sunday's switching-on ceremony. *Councillors then gave the go-ahead.*

Muzz Racing set for huge season

COWBRIDGE motorsports team Muzz Racing is set for the biggest season in its history next year, competing in three Championships at the highest level of British motorsport.

Already firmly established as a successful team, 2010 will see local racers take on the Ginetta Junior Championship, Ginetta G50 Cup and the prestigious British GT Sports Car Championship.

Race team owner and engineer, Stef 'Muzz' Matuszak said: "It's exciting times for the team. We have been pushing forwards for the last couple of years now, and it's paid off for us, returning two national championships in the last two seasons, putting us right up there with the best in British motorsport. We are certainly flying the flag for Welsh Racing!"

All three championships visit some of the most well-known and historic racing circuits in the UK, such as Silverstone, Donnington Park, and Brands Hatch with the GT Championship taking the team to the famous Magny-Cours, home of the French F1 Grand Prix.

The team also boasts Welsh representation from two of its three drivers, the junior events being contested by 16-year-old Cardiff based racer Jake Rattenbury and the new 3.5litre 300bhp British GT car being partly driven by Cowbridge-based Gary Simms.

Pre-season testing begins for the team early next month, when they travel to the Spanish circuits of Jerez and Barcelona.

Mayor holds book fayre in Bridgend

THE Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Jeff Tildesley, will hold a charity book fayre in the foyer of the Civic Offices tomorrow (November 27) and on Monday, November 30, from 10am-4pm.

"I am an avid reader myself, so this seems the perfect way to raise money for our chosen charities while also encouraging people in the borough to enjoy a good book. I hope to see many people browsing the selection on offer – I know I will be," the Mayor said.

Offering new and nearly new books, the fayre has been organised by Bridgend County Civic Charity Appeals Committee to raise funds for the 2009/10 local charities: Yellow Wales, Glaze Prostate Charity Wales and The Stroke Association.

For more information, contact Mari on 01656 664105 or Huw on 01656 654946.

Name change for Vale women's group

VALE Women's Aid has been relaunched by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

From now on, it will be known as *Atal y Fro* – Vale Prevention.

The organisation has decided that if it is to break the cycle of domestic violence, it needs to tackle the problem within the whole family, involving partners and fathers, as part of a mission to help families break the cycle of domestic violence.

The organisation is developing an early intervention programme using a model that worked in New Zealand.

It also has an education programme called 'Breaking the Cycle' which has been piloted at Barry Comprehensive School.

Kay Quinn, director, said that the emphasis will be on prevention and the aim is to "break the silence on domestic violence".

IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL AT EAGLESWELL PRIMARY

Llantwit pupils tap into Gambia appeal

ON Friday, November 13 at St Donat's Castle, Eagleswell Primary School held its final fundraiser for its 'Water for the Gambia Appeal' – a project to build a new well and storage tank at Brufut School in The Gambia.

Deputy headteacher Kevin Archard reported: "In the stunning surroundings of St Donat's Castle, a packed hall of guests enjoyed an African-themed evening. Following a three-course African meal, the students of Atlantic College entertained the gathering with a spectacular song, dance and a fashion show designed to give guests a flavour of West Africa.

"The evening culminated in dancing to the sound of Llantwit Major's rock 'n' roll icons, 'The Love Handels' who celebrate their 10th anniversary this year. The event was successful beyond the expectations of the organisers, with more than £2,000 raised taking the appeal's grand total to over £5,000.

"Eagleswell Primary School would like to extend its grateful thanks to everyone connected with the event; Atlantic College staff, students and catering staff, local businesses that donated raffle prizes, the band who waived their fee, the parents and their friends who supported the evening .

Rhoose gets ready for Christmas

COMMUNITY SPIRIT IS THE KEY FACTOR AS RHOOSE LOOKS FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS

by PHILIP IRWIN

LITTLE by little, and almost unnoticed, the 'village' of Rhoose has grown so much over the last 15 years that it should really be described as a small town.

Its population is now estimated at around 7,000, which certainly takes it way past the modest numbers normally associated with a rural village.

However, Rhoose has only two Vale councillors, and no town council, and some residents feel that the community is under-represented compared to, for instance, Cowbridge (three Vale councillors) and Dinas Powys (four).

For many years, Rhoose probably suffered from being seen as the village that was on the fringes of the airport. It still is, of course, and only last year, when on my way to fly from Cardiff Airport, I took the train from Bridgend, and then the shuttle bus from Rhoose, it was possible to still think of it as just a signpost on the way to foreign climes.

However, it is far more than that, and residents made their choice to live there because of its uniquely attractive surroundings, on the plateau that looks out over the Bristol Channel, and because of the genuine air of a rural village community that still exists.

The large turnout on Remembrance Sunday, which was featured in The GEM, is testament to its community spirit.

This was confirmed by Coun Jeff James, a long-standing councillor for Rhoose. He told The GEM: "We had 150 in the parade, and more than 200 at the service. There was also a contingent of serving Armed Forces personnel."

He continued: "I do think that the number of organisations and self-help groups in Rhoose illustrate what is good about the community and its spirit.

"They give great help to the local school as well. Add to that the beautiful coastline, and it makes Rhoose a great place to live!"

Rhoose businesses do their bit to keep the community vibrant, and many people find that there is little need to trek to the out-of-town stores, as the local traders are well tuned in to their needs.

Another landmark business in the area is the Egerton Grey Hotel, and when The GEM called, owner Richard Morgan-Pryce was just running through his annual check-list of films that had been filmed there – and famous faces who had stayed.

There is often a time lag, of course. Only two weeks ago, the hotel featured in the antiques show *Flog It!* – although it was early this year that the filming took place.

The final episode of the last season of *Belonging* was also filmed at the Egerton and in 2010 it should feature on the big screen, as *Mister Nice*, a movie based on the life of Kenfig Hill-born drug dealer Howard Marks, has been filming there.

Cast and crew stayed at the hotel for several days while key scenes in the film were shot.

Away from the silver screen, a certain David Cameron has also stayed there.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

LEFT: Tracey Prince and Laura Whitley of The Velvet Touch have an impressive selection of bath bombs, soaps, oils and gift sets, all beautifully wrapped for your Christmas stocking!

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For further details, contact Jennie on 01446 710386.

Have a Velvet Christmas!

THE Velvet Touch wishes all our clients a very Merry Christmas, and if you haven't booked Christmas appointments, now is the time to do it!

We have special offers for December, which also includes our popular Microdermabrasion, which helps to reduce blocked pores, scarring, dry skin etc., leaving your skin with a healthy glow.

If you are stuck for Christmas ideas, we have a selection of gift packs, fashion jewellery and accessories, stocking fillers, including bath bombs, and also a number of Christmas packages for the lady or man in your life and, of course, gift vouchers.

We will have extended opening hours over Christmas, so contact The Velvet Touch on 01446 713330.

Rhoose gets ready for Christmas

Personal service is what counts when it comes to local shopping

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16) LOCAL traders, of course, have a vital role to play in any community, as was recognised when a Rhoose shop assistant recently received a huge accolade.

Annette Harrison, who works at the Spar store, was awarded the title of 'Sales Assistant of the Year' – recognising how someone in a shop can do far more for their customers than just take their money.

Her manager at the Rhoose Spar, Chris David, said the award was totally deserved.

Spar super assistant Annette Harrison.

He explained: "She is so helpful to customers. If an elderly person arrives on a scooter, she will help them in and go round to help as they shop."

Shops can so often help 'glue' their community together, by keeping track of regular customers and giving isolated people a precious social contact.

Church communities play a major role in building community spirit in the village. This Sunday, there will be an advent carol service at 6pm at St Curig's Church, Porthkerry.

There will be a 'mini Christmas fayre' at Rhoose Community Hall on Saturday, December 12, from noon until 5pm.

A Taize Service will take place at 6pm on Sunday, December 13, at 6pm, while on December 20 (at 9.45am) there will be a Sunday school Nativity at St Peter's, Rhoose.

Also playing a strong role in the community is Rhoose Lifeguard Club, and the club holds its annual carol service in the Stewart Road Community Hall on Friday, December 18.

This event starts at 6.30pm and will be in aid of the NSPCC children's charity.

Getting ready for Christmas!

ABOVE: Richard Morgan-Pryce, of Egerton Grey, alongside their Christmas tree.

Community bingo

RHOOSE Community Hall management committee is holding an afternoon bingo session at the hall in Stewart Road (November 28), at 2.30pm. All welcome.

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Rhws pupils' pyjama party with a difference for Children in Need

RECEPTION CLASS.

PUPILS at Rhws Primary School had 'the day of their dreams' while raising funds for Children in Need.

Children and staff wore a 'just got up' look by coming to school dressed in their pyjamas.

Children also paid for 'teacher dares', with each teacher performing the favourites at the end of the day.

"The school had great fun and raised almost £500 for Children in Need!" a spokesperson reported.

LEFT: The year-2 boys gave a big thumbs-up to both the pyjama party, and also raising money for Children in Need.

YEAR-3.

CLASS 4H.

Class 1S.

CLASS 1B.

WHAT'S ON - in brief

Country crafts

A COUNTRY craft and gift fair will be held this Saturday, November 28, at Old Hall, Westgate, Cowbridge, 10am-4pm.

Valeways walk

SUNDAY, November 29, 2pm, Aviation walk. Start at Porthkerry Park Café car park, Barry.

Telephone Valeways office on 01446 749000 for further information.

Colwinston fayre

A CHRISTMAS fayre is being held at Colwinston Village Hall on Monday, November 30, from 7pm.

Contact Emma on 01656 750606 or info@emma-halldesigns.co.uk for details.

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

UP THE SAVAGE HILL TO THE CATHEDRAL OF THE FOREST

RECENTLY, in an all-male walk, three likely lads joined Roger Hill at Monmouth on an overcast morning;

Monmouth or Trefynwy (town on the Monnow) is a border town where the rivers Wye and Monnow meet and where Henry V, who later went on to win the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, was born.

Leaving from just below the magnificent 13th century stone-gated bridge that has now been pedestrianised since the old cattle market was demolished and a second bridge built over the Monnow, they crossed the recreation field and took the underpass to eventually cross the River Wye by way of the stone bridge.

As they tramped the meadows beside the River Wye, a fine drizzle set in that accompanied them all the way to Lower Redbrook.

The first brass in this country was made in Tintern, but in 1566 wire-making followed with mills situated on tributaries of the lower Wye valley including Redbrook.

A copper works was established by 1691 and the furnace in Redbrook used coke for smelting iron ore from the Forest of Dean by 1716. In fact, the copper industry only failed when a large works was built at Swansea.

Leaving the river behind to climb up a flight of steps, the group picked up a track which led them into a broad valley past Glyn Farm.

The autumnal colours that dressed the trees more than made up for the dismal weather conditions and they followed the contours of the hillside to meet up with a metalled road.

As they climbed gradually up through the valley, the weather started to clear and the majestic tower of the church in Newland came into view in the distance.

A short but steep climb up the aptly-named Savage Hill saw them emerging into Newland, where the village is dominated by the tall ornate towered 13th century All Saints Church, described as the 'Cathedral of the Forest'.

Within the church is an old brass engraving known as the 'Miner's Brass' – showing a Forest miner with a candle in his mouth, pick-axe in his hand and a hod.

The churchyard made an apt stop for lunch, as they resisted the urge to sample the delights of the Ostrich Inn, deriving from the ostrich emblem used by the Probyns, local landowners from previous times.

Gathered around the church are the almshouses founded by a London haberdasher in the 1500s.

Leaving the village, a cold penetrating wind swept over them as they crossed fields before reaching shelter in woodland.

Emerging at Upper Redbrook, they followed Offa's Dyke path climbing gradually to reach the National Trust picnic site and view point at the Kymin 840-feet above sea level.

At the Kymin stands the Naval Temple built in 1800, a Georgian structure commemorating 16 Admirals of the British navy and also the Round House – painted white so it is a well-known landmark for miles around.

This Georgian banqueting house, built in 1794, was used by the local gentry and its claim to fame is that Horatio Nelson and Lady Hamilton had breakfast there in 1802.

There are glorious views to be had over Monmouth and across to Sugar Loaf Mountain and the Black Mountains beyond and these were enjoyed while the group stopped for refreshment, before taking the steep descent through Garth Wood and retracing their steps back to Monmouth town.

On November 28, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for an eight-mile moderate walk at Peterston and Hensol; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On November 29, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a seven-mile mod/hard walk at Waun Fach; contact Peter on 029 2070 6545.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Driftwood cut

AN exhibition at Coed Hills Rural Artspace runs until January 8, and includes unusual paintings by Lynette Margerison.

'Conversations with the Earth part 2 Down on the Beach', will be open from 11am-3pm.

The paintings have been made over the past two years on pieces of driftwood thrown up on Southerndown beach.

"They are a response to the mixture of emotions thrown up by the enormity of the ecological and human challenge facing my family and families all over the world," the artist says.

Valeways AGM

VALEWAYS will be holding their annual general meeting, on Tuesday, December 15, at YMCA Hub, Court Road, barry, from 3pm-4.30pm.

To attend, telephone their office on 01446 749000 or email carolyn@valeways.org.uk no later than Tuesday, December 8.

The sisters who light up the sky!

KEEN members of the Astro Observers Group in Barry have not remained idle; summer months are never ideal for observing because of the short nights and because the Sun is never far below the horizon, but the dark long nights have returned and we have been busy.

Pleiades, also known as the Seven Sisters.

Recently, while observing with the group, I photographed the magnificent star cluster Pleiades, also known as the Seven Sisters. This is a group of closely related stars which are gravitationally bound to one another and have only recently formed – recent in astronomical terms of course, in reality they are several million years old.

Because of their youth, they shine brilliantly blue-white and the original cosmic gas and dust cloud from which they coalesced is still retained as nebulosity around the main stars of the group, as can be seen from the attached photograph.

The Pleiades are easy to observe and photograph, but need a wide field. A telescope like mine does have a sufficiently wide field and my canon-40D camera attached to the telescope offered ample range by virtue of its huge digital sensor. An astronomical camera on a long focus telescope would struggle to get this cluster in its field of view.

Pre-planned observing sessions are all too frequently cancelled because of our uncertain weather, therefore much of our observing happens with ad-hoc sessions which are called on the spur of the moment when clear skies are about – and they do frequently occur.

The ad-hoc sessions are shown on the day on the Cardiff Astronomical Society website on the home page, as well as the observing page, and those keen to observe should check the website on days which promise a clear night. Pre-planned sessions are also shown on the website.

The forthcoming months through winter into spring will bring spectacular deep sky objects into view and everyone is welcome to peer at them through our telescopes.

Regular keen observers receive a telephone call from me whenever an ad-hoc session is on, but I have now discontinued calling those on the observer's list who are seldom or never able to make the sessions.

For more information visit the website: www.cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk, or call me on 07855352147.

MARC DELANEY

A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

Holton Road reinvents itself as business people realise their ambitions

A YEAR ago, the recession had hit Holton Road with a vengeance. The guillotine was hanging over Woolworths's workers – to fall in January – and a number of other businesses were forced to shut up shop.

Now, 12 months later, a new, optimistic picture is emerging – Holton Road is reinventing itself once more.

The Woolworths site has been taken over and new retailers have opened their doors.

As you can see from our Holton Road feature, the charge is being led by experienced entrepreneurs like Ferda of La Cucina and Faye Ruckley of Ruckleys, along with resilient individuals like photographer Mark Osman and Hydropowers' Lewis Prangley, who are determined to realise their dreams.

Faye told The GEM: "If stores get the right product at the right price people would still rather shop in Barry than go into Cardiff."

Do you really know what's on Holton Road? If not, read on!

TOP FESTIVE OFFERS FROM THE HAIR AND BEAUTY DEN

THE Hair and Beauty Den is a business that has so many things to offer!

● There's a fine selection of Christmas gift packs.

● The business has MAC make up packages, which include hair make-up and nails.

● Wedding packages are available, too.

● A selection of gift vouchers can be purchased for Christmas or any other special occasion.

● There are special offers on Diamond Days for the over-60s (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday).

The Hair and Beauty Den is open six days a week, from Monday to Saturday, with special late nights on Thursday and Friday.

Clients are advised to book appointments early with the Christmas rush under way.

The staff said: "We would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and happy New Year."

ANIMAL HEALTH CENTRE is pleased to offer a Christmas **DISCOUNT OF 10% OFF THE TOTAL BILL** when you bring your pet to see a vet, or when purchasing any flea or worming products.

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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

As big names move into Holton Road, business people see brighter future

ABOVE:
Ferda, Anthony and Anita will be giving Christmas shoppers a warm welcome in La Cucina.

TWO of Barry's most experienced business people are confident that as Wales emerges from recession, Holton Road has a bright future.

La Cucina is a stylish café that evokes the continental atmosphere of Paris or Barcelona.

For busy Christmas shoppers on Holton Road who want to stop off for a coffee and a bite to eat, it's the perfect haunt.

Ferda, the owner, said: "It doesn't surprise me that there are new businesses springing up locally. Recessions are well known for bringing out the entrepreneurial spirit.

"People who have been made redundant often seize the opportunity to do something they may have dreamed of doing for years."

Ferda has as inexpensive a menu as people could wish for – tea starts at £1.25, coffee £1.45 and breakfast £2.95. There's a huge range of paninis and meals all around just £4 - £5!

Ferda explained: "We've made everything as reasonably priced as we possibly could, as a concession to the present time."

Faye Ruckley, the owner of Ruckleys, the popular nursery equipment and baby shop, said that recent 'big name' arrivals in Holton Road had made a difference to how busy it was.

"In recent weeks, Tescos and The 99p Store have opened and the footfall has increased significantly.

"The last year has been tough, but we've responded by being as competitive with our products as possible.

"If stores get the right product at the right price people would still rather shop in Barry than go all the way into Cardiff."

This festive season, Faye is also bringing Father Christmas to Holton Road.

She explained: "Father Christmas will be in his grotto in the store on Saturdays and Sundays during December from 12noon to 4pm.

" It's £5 for a present, sweets and a balloon, and it's a great chance for people to bring a camera and capture the children's delight!"

Plants growing in your house?
NO, NOT 'THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS', IT'S HOLTON ROAD'S HYDROPOWER!

HYDROPOWER is quite simply one of the most original businesses to arrive in Barry for many years.

Owner Lewis Prangley is bringing the hydroponic concept to the town for the indoor gardener.

Approximately, 90 per cent of all cut fresh flowers purchased in the UK are hydroponically grown, and 65 per cent of fruit and veg from supermarkets are grown in hydroponic systems.

It sounds like something from The Day of the Triffids, but Lewis, a keen gardener since childhood, explained that the shop has everything to get people started in a fascinating pastime.

"Hydropower is the fastest growing supplier of hydroponic equipment – from grow tents to grow lights, extractor fans to carbon filters, and hydroponics systems to nutrients and boosters.

"A large volume of hydroponic food can be grown rapidly in a small area."

So what can people grow? – Well, vegetables, flowers, fruit, peppers, herbs, orchids and tropical plants.

In hydroponics, the water, nutrients and air needed by a plant to grow are mainlined directly to the rootball, freeing the plant to use its available energy in its upper leaf, fruit or flower development.

Lewis said: "We've got starter kits at £125, which would make a great Christmas present for gardeners, and the range goes up to all-singing, all-dancing deluxe kits."

For many people who get involved in hydroponics, there's a dual purpose, the joy of growing something allied to having an aesthetically pleasing feature in the house.

People are already travelling to the shop from all over south Wales, and Lewis added: "People don't have to be baffled by the science, just come in and we'll give you all the advice you need."

ABOVE:
Lewis Prangley, the owner of Hydropower, is a fount of knowledge about hydroponics, and his enthusiasm for the hobby shines through.

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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

Business dreams come true on Holton Road!

ENTREPRENEURS in Barry town centre are fulfilling their personal dreams by bringing exciting new business ideas to Thompson Street and Holton Road.

It's more than 12 months since the credit crunch assailed Britain, but paradoxically, in adversity many people have seen it as their chance to forge a new future for themselves.

Still-Images
By Mark Osman
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Mark Osman is an inspiring case in point. Mark explained: "In November, 2008, I was made redundant after 25 years with a firm in Cardiff.

"I was 47 and thought: 'What can I do now?' For 30 years I'd been an enthusiastic amateur photographer – I'd done the usual photos, holidays, family members and scenery.

"I'd also photographed my sister-in-law's wedding in Aberystwyth and that set me thinking about whether photography was a way forward for me."

On November 28, Mark's new company Still Images is due to open in Thompson Street.

"It is 'Still Images trading in Chris John Picture Framing'. Chris works at the rear of the property and I've renovated the shop area – the two businesses are complementary and it is very exciting."

To get to the point of opening his business, Mark has immersed himself in photography.

"To start, I bought a book by the south Wales photographer, Mark Cleghorn. I then managed to get a £2,500 government grant and when Mark saw some of my work he agreed to train me. After facing redundancy, I now have a new future."

A year ago, things appeared bleak for Mark, but the last 12 months have been a voyage of discovery.

"I found out a lot about the good nature of people. There are a lot of nice people out there – it's not just a cruel world."

Still Images on Thompson Street is the place to go if you want a wedding shoot done, a picture of a child's birthday or a family portrait.

"All people have to do is pop in to have a chat with me about what they want done," said Mark.

On the other side of Thompson Street, a young entrepreneur, Lee Grindlay, has set up the trendy Custom Ink Tattoo Studio.

Just four weeks ago, Lee held a grand opening with two members of the Cardiff Devils, Matt Miller and Matt Towe doing the honours.

Lee, aged 21, who used to work on the money exchange desk at Cardiff Airport, said: "Custom Ink is a studio with a difference. Rather than just doing 'book design tattoos', we invite people to bring in what they want on their body – whether it's an item or an idea they have.

"I can produce a sketch for someone to see. If it is something simple, we can go ahead straight away. If it is something more complicated, I can do a sketch for someone to come back and see, and then make an appointment to have it done."

Lee's clientele ranges from people in their late teens to early 60s.

Custom Ink Tattoo Studio's tattoos start at as little as £20, but the studio also sells a range of body jewellery, jumpers and t-shirts.

Lee added: "If someone wants to give a family member a gift that's a little bit different, we're doing special gift vouchers for Christmas."

On Holton Road, mother and son team Ann and Simon Jones have just opened Kiatu – Swahili for shoe – after relocating from Brixham in Devon.

Simon said: "We offer comfortable, stylish ranges. As an independent shop we have control over what we order, and it gives us a flexibility that the chains don't have."

Ann pointed out: "One of our most popular ranges is West County Clogs which come in a variety of bright colours.

"To illustrate how competitive we are, we have women's boots from £23 and practical work shoes from £20."

Kiatu also sells slippers, scarves and pashmina shawls.

Simon said: "We decided to relocate because Brixham is a place that seems to be living in the past and we believe Barry town centre will be thriving.

"The new Tesco store has already made a difference to the footfall in Holton Road.

"We've got family in Porthcawl and Blaenavon, and we're still by the sea in Barry, so it hasn't been a difficult move!"

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Barry College - Celebrating half a century at the heart of the Vale.

Barry College is celebrating 50 years of it's life and work at the heart of the community in the Vale. Each month in the Gem, Barry College will be looking back over the last 50 years – with memories and photographs from past students, staff and local residents. A dedicated website www.barry.ac.uk/50 includes even more. To contribute memories, photographs or register as a past student or staff member, go to the website or contact us

email: 50years@barry.ac.uk or tel: 01446 725015

Gillian with her original Barry College scarf and copy of 'Horizon', the student magazine in 1962

"I remember..."
Gillian Arthur, student 1960 - 1962

Gillian attended Barry College in 1960, in its second year. She recalls the prestige of being a Barry College student, "In those days, it meant a lot to gain a place at Barry College. I was delighted to be accepted onto the secretarial course."

Gillian still has a copy of the Barry College student magazine 'Horizon', which was published when she was a student, in 1962. Gillian can remember most of the students who contributed to the magazine. Along with this, Gillian also has an original 1960 official Barry College scarf – these used to be offered for sale to the students. "The magazine and scarf have travelled with me to different places over the years, when I have moved house. They have been kept safe under the bed in my house and so are still in very good condition."

Gillian remembers that what is now the College reception area, used to be the canteen. "On the day that Princess Margaret got married in 1960, the students were given special permission to take an extended lunch so that we could gather around the television in the canteen and watch the wedding take place. We watched for 3 hours, but then it was straight back to class, where we had to work extra hard to make up for lost time. It was worth it though!"

Overall, Gillian has fond memories of her time as a student at Barry College. "I remember that I always had a fun time in class. I remember one lecturer, Betty Blow – her classes were particularly fun, other lecturers were more strict but I still enjoyed every class.

"Back then, the College was smaller, with a lot less students and staff. Everyone knew each other, there was a real community spirit. Without my course at the College, I would not have been successful in my career that followed. When I first left, I gained a good job in banking and earned an impressive wage of £50 per month!"

Barry College Technical Engineering Apprentices 1962. Photo supplied by Ted Evans (appears front row second from left)

Barry College staff enjoying a break at The Three Horseshoes 1962. Photo supplied by Ken Trevithick, past staff member.

Do you have a special memory or story about Barry College?
Do you have any photographs of Barry College taken over the years?

Whether a past student, member of staff, friend of the College or local resident – we all share in the College's heritage.

All those who contribute photographs or written memories will receive a thank you letter and commemorative gift. The website www.barry.ac.uk/50 also includes details of planned activities and events through the academic year to allow all who wish to participate in celebrations the opportunity to do so.

Barry College will assume the consent of all those who appear in any photographs and written statements contributed relating to the college and its 50th celebrations, for use on the Barry College website, marketing materials and related media coverage. By contributing images/statements, you are agreeing to grant Barry College a royalty free licence to publish, edit and use such materials for the purposes stated above.

Out and About with The GEM

Ben (and cello) will star in orchestra's winter concert...

THE winter concert by the Dinas Powys Orchestra, conductor Antony Tarlton, will be held on December 13 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys, and also on December 14 at Bradenstoke Hall, Atlantic College, St Donats.

Ben Tarlton.

This year, the orchestra is delighted to announce that 14-year-old Ben Tarlton will be the guest soloist playing Elgar's *Cello Concerto*.

Ben is an exceptionally talented musician, who already has an impressive collection of musical achievements.

He lives in Llantwit Major and has played the cello since he was five years old, achieving a distinction in his grade 8 examination in April 2007 at the age of 11.

In December 2007, Ben was selected to play in the under-13s National Children's Orchestra and played on the first desk for several concerts. He has been re-selected for the year 2009 to play in the main orchestra.

He was the winner of the junior section of the 'Music in the Vale' competition held in November 2007 and won several medals and trophies for performances in the South Glamorgan Festival for young Musicians held in May 2008.

In January 2009, he achieved four gold medals for first prizes in the Swansea Festival for Young Musicians, for the second year running.

Three of these classes had upper age limits of 18 and of 20. In April, he was awarded the trophy for 'The most outstanding string player' for the festival for 2009.

This year, Ben has also competed in the Rotary competition for Young Musicians from schools in south, mid and west Wales. He won the first and second rounds, then was the overall winner in May in the final concert which took place in the Millennium Centre. He was presented with a cup and prize by Rhodri Morgan.

In April 2008, he was awarded the title of 'Young Citizen of the Year' by Llantwit Major Town Council. He has played in many concerts the past 18 months, as well as giving several private performances.

Ben studies the cello with Sharon Mackinley and has been awarded a generous bursary by Beecher Acoustics towards his fine Italian full size cello.

The programme will also include Schubert's *Overture Rosamunde* and Beethoven's *Symphony No 8*.

For further details please visit the web site www.cdpo.org.uk or telephone 029 2070 4195 for the Penarth Concert and 01446 796 929 for the St Donats concert.

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ALL WELCOME

Be one of 500 Santas on Ty Hafan run!

TV presenters Lucy and Rhodri Owen, and their own little Santa (son Gabriel) visited Ty Hafan to join the children and carers in a warm-up for the Bridgend Santa Run, due to take place on Saturday, December 12 at 5.30pm.

Following the success of the event in 2008, Ty Hafan, the family hospice for young lives, is taking Santa on the run again this year for a festive fundraiser.

Entrants can walk, jog or run the two kilometre route which will take up to 500 Santas on a two-lap route around the town and beneath the sparkling Christmas lights.

Organiser Alan Drury, said: "You can give the best possible present this year by helping to make a world of difference to the life-limited children, young people and their families who rely on Ty Hafan for comfort, care and support."

All entrants will receive a free Santa suit to run in on the day, and anyone raising £35 or more in sponsorship will also receive a commemorative souvenir. Bottled water for the event has been donated by Brecon Carreg.

Entry is £5 for children, £7.50 for adults and £20 for a family of four.

Entry forms can be downloaded from www.tyhafan.org or by calling Alan Drury on 029 2067 2060.

Bois Y Bont aids children's causes

CAPELA male choristers, Bois y Bont, recently undertook a short weekend tour to Tenby, led by tour director, Brian Lewis and conductor, John Morgan.

The 18 choristers gave a number of impromptu performances, including Tenby Rugby Club and the town's British Legion.

Both tourists and locals showed their appreciation by contributing generously to charity.

Soloists were in demand and drew plenty of encouragement; 100 per cent of the not insignificant bucket collection was divided equally between a trust fund for a local youngster requiring continuing extensive treatment and Children In Need.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Christmas market

THE St Nicholas Parish Church will hold a Christmas market on Saturday, November 28, at 10.30am-12.30pm, in St Nicholas church hall.

Stalls include crafts, gifts, cakes, books and there will be a raffle.

Admission £1 to include tea/coffee and a mince pie. Proceeds to church funds.

Mayor's coffee

ASHGROVE School will benefit from the Mayor of the Vale's charity coffee morning at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, December 1 (10.30am-12noon).

Businesswoman's award for 'anti-stress' workshops

LOCAL businesswoman Debbie Wildi has won the Welsh Spiritual Connection Award, for her work in the Vale teaching relaxation methods to adults and children suffering the effects of stress.

She runs workshops and classes and travels the Vale talking to mental health groups through her company 'prana life'.

Debbie feels charity work is her "most important venture" and aims to raise awareness of the effects of stress and depression and how to combat them, while raising as much as she can for charities such as MIND in the Vale.

Her book *Invest in You* is launched on December 2, in Karma Beauty, Cowbridge.

A percentage of profits from all sales will go to MIND in the Vale, plus a charity raffle.

For more details, see www.pranalife.co.uk or call 01446 771649.

Top award for school's young film makers

Coun Tony Hampton with award-winning Barry Comprehensive film makers George Crowther, Sam Adamson, Jack Williams and Alex Parker.

YOUNG film makers at Barry Comprehensive scooped a top award in the best regional film (Vale of Glamorgan) category at this year's media4schools film awards, sponsored by Sony UK.

The group, whose film was entitled 'Year Seven Cross Country', were George Crowther, Sam Adamson and Jack Williams (year-12) and Alex Parker (year-9).

They received their award from Vale councillor Tony Hampton, the cabinet member for education and lifelong learning, who is also a Barry Comprehensive School governor.

Schools from across south Wales competed to scoop top prizes in categories such as best edited film, best animation and the coveted best overall film.

More free leisure time for services

A SCHEME offering Service personnel, living or staying in the area, free use of facilities at Vale Council leisure and sports centres, has been extended until April 2011.

The council cabinet move follows a six-month trial during which members of the armed services were provided with access to the authority's leisure facilities.

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, November 10 – 1st Mark Roderick and Kay Dyer with 69.84 per cent; 2nd Gerald Gould and Noelle Bond 63.49 per cent; 3rd Carol James and Eileen Hughes 52.38 per cent.

Mark and Kay also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information telephone 01446 733425.

COWBRIDGE UNITED FREE CHURCH
Christmas Services 2009

Nov 29th:	Advent Carol Service 6pm
Dec 7th:	Day of Prayer 10am - 6pm
Dec 13th:	Gift Sunday Service 10.30am
Dec 20th:	Nativity Play and Worship 10.30am
Dec 20th:	Carols by Candlelight 6pm
Dec 24th:	Christmas Eve Meditation, Music and Communion 6pm
Dec 25th:	Christmas Day Family Worship and Crib Service 10am

Christmas Lunches w/c December 14th
Ring to book 01446 771021
www.cowbridgeunitedfreechurch.org.uk

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COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Netball teams tackle the URDD challenge

LAST week, Cowbridge took three netball teams to the Welsh Urdd Tournament.

The year-8 team played at UWIC. A combined year-9 and year-10 team played at Tal-y-Bont and a year-11,12 and 13 team played at Sophia Gardens.

Year-8 on song

The year-8 netball team had a fantastic day and achieved Cowbridge's best results in this tournament to date!

They played nine games during the day – winning seven games and scoring an impressive 38 goals, despite the games being of short duration (only five minutes each way).

During the first game, Cowbridge made a strong start and quickly capitalised on Glan-y-Mor's mistakes to lead 4-0 at half-time. Excellent linking play from Jo Wilkins at GS and Hannah Woodwood at GA saw the final score rest at 8-0 to Cowbridge.

Eliza Smith at WD was voted player of this first match.

In the second match, Cowbridge came up against reigning champions Corpus Christi and were outclassed by their exceptional skill and pace.

Despite some outstanding defence and interceptions from Olivia Brown at GD and Sarah Lewis at GK, the Corpus Christi team finished the game winning 7-1.

Sarah Lewis was voted as our player of the match.

Despite this knock back, Cowbridge remained in high in spirits and picked themselves up to win the next five games. Scores were as follows:-

- Cowbridge won 6-1 v Cwm Rumni. Player of the match, Jo Wilkins.
- Cowbridge won 10-4 v Bryn Hafren. Player of the match, Olivia Brown.
- Cowbridge won 4-2 v Gwyr. Player of the match, Amy O'Donnell.
- Cowbridge won 2-0 v Gwyn Llyw. Player of the match, Georgia Lott.
- Cowbridge won 7-3 v Pen-y-dre. Player of the match, Lillie Evans/Katie Llewellyn.

An exceptional team performance throughout saw the girls finishing as runners-up in their pod and qualifying for the quarter-finals against Coed Cae.

It was Cowbridge who scored first, enabling them to settle into the game and focus on the task ahead. Annabel Curle controlled the game excellently from the C and together with Amy O'Donnell, fed some lovely balls into the shooting circle for Jo Wilkins at GS and Hannah Woodwood at GA, taking the score to 3-2 to Cowbridge at half-time**.**

The girls knew they had to come out fighting in the second half and Sarah Lewis put in an outstanding performance at GK to ensure Coed Cae's scoring opportunities were kept to a minimum. An exceptional team performance saw Cowbridge win 6-3 to qualify for the semi-finals!

Cowbridge drew Corpus Christi again in the semi-final, and despite their earlier loss, the girls were in high spirits going into the game.

Unfortunately it was not meant to be, and Cowbridge went out, losing 9-1 to Corpus Christi, who then went on to win the final.

Achieving a semi-final place in a Welsh Competition is something the girls should be very proud of. Well done!

The squad was: Jo Wilkins, Hannah Woodwood, Amy O'Donnell, Lily Evans, Annabel Curle, Eliza Smith, Georgia Lott, Hannah Gaslan, Sarah Lewis, Olivia Brown, Kate Llewellyn and Lydia Hitchings.

ABOVE: The school's year-8 netball team who did well at UWIC.

Year-9 and year-10

Cowbridge year-9 and 10 netball team played in the Urdd Netball at Tal-y-Bont.

First game was against Cardinal Newman where Cowbridge won 5-0. Mairi Boxall scored three goals and Katie Wynne two. There was great defence from Caitlin Allin and Bethan Sloan and centre Liz Whitehouse played well, feeding the attack strong balls to shoot.

The second game was against Corpus Christi second team. Corpus, a renowned team, beat Cowbridge 6-0. This was a difficult game for Cowbridge where Beth Sloan and Caitlin Allin did well in defence. Cowbridge did have the opportunity to attack Corpus, but their defence was too good.

The third game was against Maes Gorman with a change in the team. Nancie Edwards came in as shooter, Nadeni GK , Romi WA and Amy WD. Again, all girls played well with Katie Wynne and Nancie scoring one each. However, Maes Gorman scored three.

The fourth game was against Glan y Mor and it was a victory for Cowbridge by 3-2 with one goal from Mairi Boxall and two from Nancie Edwards, despite a messy game with many mistakes.

The fifth game was against Cwrt Sart a strong tall team. Centre Liz Whitehouse struggled with a calf injury and had to be taken off but the girls held on to finish in a draw of 4-4.

Tonyrefail then dropped out during the day which left Cowbridge with a big gap in play. In the sixth game, Cowbridge faced another strong team, Queen Elizabeth, and lost 6-0.

The last game of the day was against Gwyr. A tired Cowbridge team let Gwyr get the better of them by making silly errors and eventually lost the game 6-0.

A good day was had by all the team, despite the injuries to Liz and Amy Wallis, and we wish them well in recovery.

Seniors (11-13)

In the first match of the tournament, Cowbridge got off to a strong start with an early goal from goal shooter Amy Goodfellow. Despite many interceptions made by the Cowbridge defence, Ogmore stepped up their attack and won 11-1.

The second match was definitely one of the most fast-paced! With an early goal from Alice Thomas, matched with some fantastic interceptions by Bethan Moorcraft and Emily Renwick, we went into half-time 2-1 down.

After some extremely exciting narrow misses from our goal shooter Charlotte Taylor, the school narrowly lost by 3-1 to Bro Myrddin.

In the third match, Cowbridge scored goals from Alice Thomas and Amy Goodfellow, to make the score 4-1.

In the second half, the defence made many fantastic interceptions to make the final score 6-2 to Cowbridge.

In the fourth match Cowbridge made use of their new found confidence and stretched their winning streak with an 8-4 victory over Amman Valley. Cowbridge started strongly with some excellent goals from Amy Goodfellow leaving Cowbridge 4-2 ahead after the first half. They stayed on form in the second half, resulting in an all-round great team effort.

Cowbridge got off to a slow start in the fifth match against local rivals Llantwit Major, but Cowbridge soon began to pick it up showing moments of brilliance, but due to some strong play from the Llantwit shooters Cowbridge lost 2-9.

The last match of the tournament saw Cowbridge up against Maes yr Yrfa. The two teams were well matched in the first half with near misses from both teams making the score 1-1 at half-time. Cowbridge kept the ball in the second half, adding four goals by Charlotte Thomas and Alice Thomas. The final score was 5-2 to Cowbridge. The girls finished third overall.

Team: Amy Goodfellow, Charlotte Martin, Charlotte Taylor, Emily Renwick, Bethan Moorcraft, Jordan Guard, Louise Edwards, Alice Thomas.

Year-7

After a strong half term of training, the year-7 netball teams took to the court for their first match against Brynteg Comprehensive School, and their performances did not disappoint!

The 7A team were off to a flying start with some great linking in attack between Hanna Lister-Sims as C, Ellie Davies at WA, Kim Jerwood as GA and Emily Davies as GS.

They quickly settled into the game and were leading 6-0 at half time.

Going into the second half, a solid defence of Katie Kell at WD, Rebecca Thomas at GD and Gemma George at GK, ensured they kept a clean sweep and prevented the Brynteg team from scoring any goals. The game finished with a final score of 12-0 to the Cowbridge girls.

Player of the match: Kim Jerwood.

The B team continued with this fine form and stormed ahead with goals thanks to Megan McNamee at GS and Jo Hannaby at GA.

Lowri Allen at WA, Stephanie Sanderson at C and Catherine Rees at WD ensured the ball was brought steadily down the court and fed to the shooters to give the girls a 7-0 lead at half-time.

In the second half, Laurie Thomas came onto GS, Megan McNamee went to GA, Jo Hannaby went to WD, Catherine Rees went into C and Stephanie Sanderson came off.

The defence of Caitlin Jones as GD and Paige Williams at GK continued with their campaign to keep Brynteg's scoreboard clear and the game finished 12-0 to Cowbridge.

Megan McNamee was voted as player of the match.

HOCKEY

COWBRIDGE year-8s played Bryn Hafren in two seven-a-side matches due to Bryn Hafren's astro turf still not being complete and no astro turf at Cowbridge.

The game was played on the wet, muddy grass on lower school fields.

Both teams had to battle against the conditions where the ball became stuck to a stick with the mud, the girls were sliding around and there was heavy rain to spice things up!

Despite the conditions, fun was had by all and at least the girls managed to play a game. Cowbridge came out on top in both games with team one winning 6-0 with all six goals from Hannah Woodwood.

Player of the match was Katie Llewellyn.

In team two's match, the score was the same with Cowbridge winning 6-0 – Georgia Lott scoring four goals and Megan Warburton and Eliza Smith one each.

Player of the match: Kate Llewellyn (team one) and Megan Warburton (team two).

CROSS COUNTRY

ON a wet and windy day in Brecon, Cowbridge took part in the Welsh Schools Cross country Championships.

In the under-14 girls race, Annabel Curle led the team home in 16th place. This was an excellent run for Annabel who has just recovered from being ill and struggled with her breathing on the day. *(See page 35 for more details).*

Next to finish were the year-7 contingent of Elinor Bishop (33rd), Rebecca Thomas (45th) and Alice Tudor (48th) to complete the team. The team finished in fourth place.

Elinor Morgan competed in the school team for the first time and ran well to finish in 60th place, with Laurie Thomas finishing in 62nd place. A great effort by all the girls.

In the under-16 girls race, Fiona Bray finished in 16th place – another great performance by Fiona in a national race. Miriam Bennett finished in 21st place, which was a superb race for her and third to finish was the ever-improving Rebecca John in 34th.

Unfortunately, due to injury, illness and other commitments a further runner did not compete to make up a full team.

For the same reasons a senior team could not be found.

Llantwit boxer Dan impresses the purists

A YOUN G Llantwit Major boxer featured in the 'best bout of the night' at the boxing event held in the Llantwit Major Leisure Centre last Friday (November 20).

Liantwit's Daniel Ruffle fought Dave Andrews, who could not get any where near Daniel's evasive southpaw style. He chased Ruffle around the ring for three rounds scoring occasionally, and the Llantwit boxer won on a unanimous points verdict.

Ten-year-old Dillon Cook (Llantwit Major ABC) boxed G Jones of Cwmcarn. Dillon also used the ring to his advantage, scoring well throughout this well-matched contest and got the nod from all three judges.

Super heavyweight Gareth O'Callaghan boxed Craig Carrell, who travelled from Grimsby to take on the Llantwit boxer. Gareth didn't take advantage of his better fitness level and let the northerner off the hook on occasions, losing the contest on a close points decision.

David Avrarm was in the ring against L Jones of Porthcawl ABC and the taller Jones did not let David get past his longer reach. In the second round, the referee stopped the contest.

Hendry Mcallister, boxing for the host club, took on T Lloyd of Barry Westend ABC. Hendry showed sighs of ring rust after being out of boxing for some time.

However, he did show some of his old class, while his younger opponent also performed well, hitting the target with good combinations shots. The Barry West End Boxer got the decision.

Last year's youth champion, Lee Dixon, boxed a good exhibition contest with Oliver Dacton of Barry West End.

Llantwit Major's woman boxer, Hannah Willcox, was also involved in a exhibition contest with S Whistands of Hereford ABC, and both did well.

Dale Phillips from the host club had a hard bout against Owen Christopher (Taibach ABC).It was all even going into the last round, until the Taibach boy came out strong, hitting Dale with good shots.

Towards the end of the contest, the Llantwit boxer came good with a rally of combinations to head and body.

Dale won the close bout on a two to one decision. This win makes it five on a trot for the young boxer.

In December, Llantwit Major Amateur Boxing Club, in conjunction with the Vale of Glamorgan Police, is putting on a charity boxing event.

The format means that there will be no decisions after the bouts, and it will be held in the Llantwit Major Leisure Centre, on Saturday, December 12, from 7pm until midnight.Tickets are available from Vale Shoe Repair, the Precinct, Llantwit Major.

Tony Meakin.

News from Garw Valley Railway

RECENT work undertaken at Pontycymer locomotive shed has surrounded the steam locomotive 7705, where both the left and right hand sides of the smokebox plate have been removed due to wasting around the saddle tank brackets. New plate will be riveted into place.

Other work has focused on the 'Shark' brake van, where attention has now turned to the roof. This is a joint project with the local ARC group, whose members have also done work on the side walls, replacing the old walls with new timbers.

The distinctive Shark brakevans were used on engineering trains as part of a track renewal process. The vans have their own retractable ploughs at each end, which were used to spread newly laid ballast.

The next stage of the restoration will focus on this area and the mechanism for lowering the ploughs.

Maintenance work has been carried out on the coal shovel, as well as on one of the diesel mechanical 'Planet' shunters. The Class 108 diesel multiple unit is having its seats refurbished and re-upholstered in readiness for future services.

On the exterior front, the main shed doors and the entrance door have been de-rusted and given a new coat of blue paint. (We would like to thank everyone who contributed paint to the project.)

The concrete floor of the shed is also being painted once work has finished each week. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to call into the shed any Saturday to see what is going on.

Work parties take place from around 9.30am-4pm each Saturday.

NW

'Gavin and Stacey' can boost Vale tourism

A COUNCILLOR'S recommendation that the hit BBC TV series *Gavin and Stacey* should be added to the Vale Council's draft tourism strategy has been accepted.

Coun Rob Curtis, who represents Barry on the Vale Council, told The GEM yesterday that he was "delighted" that the economy and environment scrutiny committee had agreed to add the proposal to the draft document, which considers how to boost local tourism, at a meeting on Tuesday.

The third series of *Gavin and Stacey* airs tonight on BBC1 at 9pm, and in the last two years there have been growing numbers of visitors to Barry and the Island, keen to track down the familiar locations.

Coun Curtis said: "The series has helped to put Barry and Barry Island on the map.

"I hope the council cabinet will approve the document."

Coun Rob Curtis hopes that a *Gavin and Stacey* trail will be agreed by the production company Baby Cow, which owns the series' copywright, once a decision has been finally made that no more programmes will be produced

You can win a Christmas tree!

THE GEM has teamed up with The Downs Christmas Tree Centre to offer local children a chance to win their family a fantastic real Christmas tree!

The competition winners will be able to point to the magnificent Christmas centrepiece throughout the festive period and say: "I won that!"

The competition is for the best artwork of a decorated Christmas tree – in any form.

It could be a painting, poster, anything at all in two dimensions, or even three!

There is a prize in each of four age groups: under-8, age nine-to-11, 12-15, and 16 and over. One entry per child will be accepted.

Completed entries can be posted in the competition box at The Downs Christmas Tree site, or at Amici in Cowbridge High Street.

Winning entries will be displayed at the Downs Christmas Tree site.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 9.

The winner of each section will be able to choose a Christmas tree to a maximum value of £40 on Saturday, December 12.

The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Appeal after Penarth theft

PENARTH police are investigating a burglary at the outbuilding of a house on Purcell Road, when thieves made off with a bow and arrows, a Weinrach air rifle in a green case, a crossbow, a drill, and a remote controlled helicopter.

The theft took place between 11pm on November 22 and 9am the following morning.

Detective Sergeant Mark Bowen of Barry CID said: "We would like to hear from anyone who may have information with regard to this incident.

"If you saw anyone behaving suspiciously in the area, or if you have information about this crime then please contact the police."

Anyone with information about this burglary is asked to contact DS Mark Bowen at Barry CID on 01446 731606 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Say no to drink and drugs – MP

VALE MP John Smith is supporting the national road safety charity Brake's campaign to highlight its 'Not a drop, not a drag' campaign, in Road Safety Week.

"The charity, which coordinates the annual road safety event, is highlighting two major killers on our roads: drink and drug driving. One in six road deaths are caused by drivers with more than the legal alcohol limit in their blood, and research suggests that similar numbers may involve drivers on illegal drugs," Mr Smith said.

"I am asking all drivers in the Vale to make a personal commitment not to risk a drop of alcohol or any illegal drug if you're getting behind the wheel."

Are council bags now delivered by helicopter?

ABOVE: THE PROBLEM...

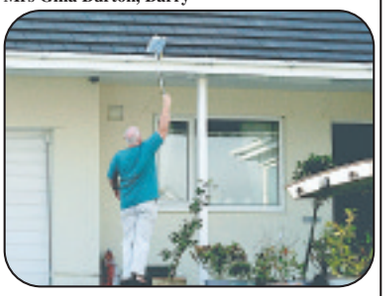
WHEN I looked out of my window this morning, I noticed the council had delivered my supply of black bin bags, so I went out to lift them from the driveway.

As I picked them up, something caught my eye on my elderly neighbour's roof.

When I had a closer look, I noticed it was her supply of bin bags! So I can only assume that the council are trialling delivery of these bags by helicopter and the pilot's aim was affected by the high gusts of wind we are experiencing at the moment.

Luckily, my husband, who is also a pilot, was able to effect a safe retrieval of the aforementioned bags. (*See picture below*).

Mrs Gina Burton, Barry



...AND THE SOLUTION!

Eminent Briton stamp winners

THE winners of a pack of Eminent Briton stamps were:

Mr Willis, Bridgend; Tariq Phillips, Llanharan; Maisie Manley, Porthcawl; Mrs Partridge, Barry; C Clancy, Bridgend; Mrs K Edwards, Dinas Powys; Mrs J Davies, Rhoose; Lisa Wells, Barry; Mari Hughes, Ely; David Lewis, St Brides Major; Robina Brooks, Sully; SE Ware, East Aberthaw; Mildred Trigg Knight, Bridgend; AE Evans, Craig Penllyn; Jeanette Thomas, Cowbridge; Mrs J James, Boverton; Colin Marsh, Llantwit Major; Mrs Ann King, Pencoed; P Jones, Cowbridge; Mrs Overy, Boverton.

Barry carols

AGE CONCERN (Senior Health Shop) is holding a Christmas carol concert, on December 2, at 10.30am, with Barry Ladies Choir.

Join in over a cup of tea or coffee and a mince pie. *Further information on 01446 747654.*

PACT MEETING

COFFEE and chat meeting at the White Lion Public House, Ystradowen, December 1, 11.30am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing or log onto www.ourbobby.com

Teen vampire film needs a severe splashing in holy water and garlic!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

THERE is money to be made in teenagers – not literally, they haven't quite managed the ability to harvest currency at will, but their spending power is something not to be sniffed at.

With their hands in their pockets, a fad can easily become a craze, something that has happened to the *Twilight* series of books by Stephanie Meyer.

But far from being the sole property of gloomy teenagers everywhere, the books, and the first film, have become a phenomenon, something that can only be sated by the release of the second film, going under the title of *New Moon*.

Continuing from where the first film left off, Bella (Kristen Stewart) and Edward's (Robert Pattinson) relationship is growing stronger, despite the small bump of him being an immortal vampire; but when Bella's blood is shed, Edward and his family leave the small town, ostensibly to protect Bella.

Her response is to throw caution to the wind, forming a close friendship with Jacob (Taylor Lautner), who himself isn't quite what he seems – but despite Edward and his family leaving town, Bella is still far from safe...

The first *Twilight* film was a laughably poor piece of work that failed to convince me in anyway whatsoever; however, given that I was probably the oldest person in the cinema, I can't imagine that the film makers were all that bothered, particularly as the film pocketed a rather impressive $380million worldwide.

This latest instalment will no doubt achieve even greater financial rewards given the amount of publicity and hype afforded it. Yet it comes nowhere close to deserving it, the end product a monotonous and dull exercise in the lives of moping hormonal teenagers – who just happen to be either werewolves, vampires or just plain normal.

However it isn't as if anything I say here will have the slightest effect on the target audience of these films – after all, not being a teenage girl who thinks Robert Pattinson is God's gift to manhood, it's pretty safe to say this is one film that makes no bones about who it is actually intended to appeal to.

But scrape away the layers of youthful adoration and you are left with a film that doesn't succeed on any level other than that of parting cash from teenage purses, and has very little in the way of artistic merit.

Given the rabid adoration these films have, it's no surprise that both Pattinson and Kristen Stewart have become teen icons, but both performers have shown outside the franchise that they have a strong work ethic and acting ability.

Unfortunately, whether it is down to the screenplay, adapted by Melissa Rosenberg, or just that the two actors weren't quite getting into the material, neither distinguish themselves with a good turn.

Pattinson is merely asked to float round (at times literally), his pale skin the strongest element of a performance that may make some people swoon but does very little; however, there is the odd occasion where he delivers which makes you wish he did it more often through the course of the film instead of looking pensive and, supposedly, deep.

Stewart has by far the meatiest role on show, yet manages to be both incredibly annoying and also quite unbelievably melodramatic.

It is little slight on the actress, but her character's constant misery due to Edward's leaving grates, and you wish that ,rather than become an adrenaline junkie (which allows her to see Edward, as his pasty visage pops up to warn her about the danger of her actions) she would just get a tub of ice-cream, watch *Dirty Dancing* and be done with it.

The performances around the two of them are nothing to write home about either; Taylor Lautner, as the third side of the love triangle, may have developed impressive muscles in the year since the last film, but fails to have developed his acting ability, coming across so wooden that you could carve him into a stake to taunt Edward.

When even Michael Sheen (in a five-minute cameo) is struggling to deliver a good performance, you know that you're in trouble.

Sadly, things aren't made any better by the direction. Chris Weitz, who, having replaced the first film's director, Catherine Hardwick, promptly uses the exact same visual style and colour scheme, makes you wonder why the latter was ousted by the former – given the almost carbon copy direction he offers.

He isn't helped by a narrative that is so dull and boring that this two-hour film feels around two weeks long, and Weitz does very little to liven things up with direction that borders on the mundane.

Ultimately, the success of *New Moon* will depend on how many people will go and see it. Given that it has just broken the one-day ticket sales record in America, that no doubt means a lot of people - but it is a film that doesn't deserve it, the finished product being drab and painfully boring.

VERDICT – A weaker offering than its progenitor, which itself was poor, *The Twilight Saga: New Moon* is teen-friendly rubbish that may indeed make its audience swoon but will leave the non-believers freezing cold.

Poor performances and weak direction make this a listless piece of work, but one that will no doubt rake it in where it counts – at the box office.

One to avoid *(unless you're a hormonal 15-year-old girl).*

CAOS call for Annie

THE the Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society (CAOS) is on the lookout for a young girl, aged eight-14, to play Annie in their next production. needs you!

On Saturday (November 28), at 11am it holds an audition day at Y Bont Faen School, Cowbridge. *Telephone 01446 713110 or visit www.cowbridgeaos.org.uk.*

BHF thanks for donations

AS the local British Heart Foundation (BHF) In Memoriam secretary, I am writing to thank all those readers who selected the BHF to benefit from financial tributes to be given in place of flowers at funerals.

We understand that decisions can be hard to make at the difficult time of losing a loved one.

We are very grateful to those who choose the BHF as the charity to benefit from their thoughtfulness.

The BHF's vital work significantly prolongs and improves the quality of life of the very many sufferers from heart disease.

When donations are to be given to charity in the place of funeral flowers, we very much hope that readers will give sincere consideration to supporting the vital work of the BHF.

With 240,000 people in Wales currently living with and suffering from the serious disabling effects of coronary heart disease alone, there is clearly much still to be done.

Patrick Hart, In Memoriam Secretary, British Heart Foundation Cymru, (Llantwit Major and Barry).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 593.

● **£2000:** 515316 (the winner comes from Cardiff).

● **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500, was not claimed this week.**

● **£10:** 515103, 724867, 178425, 845311, 461843, 749847, 788225, 607876, 397157, 874785, 212950, 804287, 616084, 733248, 468609, 896976, 501498, 838032, 787148, 593574. ● **£5:** 160524, 191151, 888761, 870298, 508548, 271608, 760124, 179597, 854476, 784828, 312629, 892388, 545252, 839059, 896091, 293707, 594047, 183518, 889025, 139930, 419697, 769296, 673944, 362586, 802738, 737469, 534403, 686339, 699208, 129693, 227754, 777853, 542292, 804755, 836676, 509813, 223595, 761911, 778289, 326524, 230435, 742806, 310107, 482744, 619605, 505086, 420971, 227706, 333488, 711223, 872955, 265101, 754655, 263688, 193977, 863207, 125709, 141622, 406298, 264760.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, please call telephone 02920 672062.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas
Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01119/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Raise ridge height of part of existing dwelling, convert rear section of existing garage to study and utility room, amend windows and external material
Location:/Lleoliad: 30D, Archer Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01126/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Pitched roof and plant room extension to school block
Location:/Lleoliad: Headlands School, St. Augustines Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01146/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Two storey extension to existing house
Location:/Lleoliad: 2, The Hollies, Flanders Road, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llantwit Major

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01157/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of new stone faced boundary wall to height of 1800mm including blockwork retaining wall.
Location:/Lleoliad: 4, Fairleigh, Michaelston Le Pit
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Michaelston-le-Pit

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01160/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Retention of stainless steel roof stack to kebab kitchen and wooden summerhouse to rear garden. Addition of new side access gate to rear garden
Location:/Lleoliad: Major Best Kebab, East Street, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llantwit Major

Application Nos:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/001167/FUL and 2009/01168/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: 1. Construction of new timber balcony; 2. New doorway to rear courtyard and installation of bi-folding doors; 3. 2.no conservation rooflights; 4. New timber roof lantern over flat roof; 5. Alterations to front feature window; 6. Storage shed; 7. Enlarge opening on front boundary wall; 8. Roofing over alleyway; 9. Other internal modifications
Location:/Lleoliad: The Market Place, 66, High Street, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01173/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of integral garage, and erection of two storey side extension
Location:/Lleoliad: Hafod, Gileston, St. Athan
Conservation Area:
/Ardal Gadwraeth Gileston

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01175/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing extension and building of new extension with local stone walls and steeply pitching slate roof.
Location:/Lleoliad: Llanmaes Village Hall, Llanmaes
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llanmaes

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01181/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Loft conversion to extend habitable accommodation of second floor flat into loft space, with large dormers to front and rear
Location:/Lleoliad: 15, Maughan Terrace, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Listed Building Consent
Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01126/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Pitched roof and plant room extension to school block
Location:/Lleoliad: Headlands School, St. Augustines Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01168/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: 1. Construction of new timber balcony; 2. New doorway to rear courtyard and installation of bi-folding doors; 3. 2.no conservation rooflights; 4. New timber roof lantern over flat roof; 5. Alterations to front feature window; 6. Storage shed; 7. Enlarge opening on front boundary wall; 8. Roofing over alleyway; 9. Other internal modifications
Location:/Lleoliad: The Market Place, 66, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01192/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Reinstate structure and finishes damaged by fire. New oak and thatch roof. Remove and reinstate stone chimney stack. Remove damaged ceilings and partitions and reinstate in existing positions
Location:/Lleoliad: Bush Inn, St. Hilary, Nr. Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building
Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01127/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Temporary accommodation to house school during works to school block
Location:/Lleoliad: Unit 2, Headlands School, St. Augustine's Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Headlands School, Grade II

Development that might affect the setting of a Conservation Area
Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01179/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: The proposal comprises of four No. 1 bedroom residential apartments on a vacant site at the corner of Maughan Terrace and John Street, Penarth
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to 17, Maughan Terrace, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Affecting the Penarth Conservation Area

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar- vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF
(TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest
Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01108/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Western extension to Fforest Wood Quarry
Location:/Lleoliad: Fforest Fawr Farm, Fforest Road, Llanharry

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01140/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of area of agricultural land to land associated with commercial soils and turf business, plus retention of a screening wall and hardstanding and the construction of a desludging chamber, 4 no. storage bays and a lagoon for the improved disposal and recycling of surface water
Location:/Lleoliad: Horticultural Works, Station Yard, Station Road East, Wenvoe

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way
Ceisiadau a allai effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/00584/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed first floor addition and extensions to provide double garage and bedrooms to an existing ground floor only bungalow
Location:/Lleoliad: The Croft, Heol y March, Bonvilston

Application(s) submitted with an Environmental Statement
Ceisiadau a gyflwynwyd gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8
Proposed development at Fforest Fawr Farm, Fforest Road, Llanharry.

I give notice that Hanson Quarry Products Europe Ltd., is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Western extension to Fforest Wood Quarry.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement at a charge of £100.00 from Mr. Ian Briggs, WYG EPT Limited, Executive Park, Avalon Way, Anstey, Leicestershire. LE7 7GR so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:
- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 17 December, 2009.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 17 December 2009 quoting reference 2009/01108/FUL.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8
Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Fforest Fawr Farm, Fforest Road, Llanharry.

Hysbysir trwy hyn Hanson Quarry Products Europe Ltd., n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Western extension to Fforest Wood Quarry

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynu copïau o'r datganiad am £100.00 oddi wrth/o Mr. Ian Briggs, WYG EPT Limited, Executive Park, Avalon Way, Anstey, Leicestershire. LE7 7GR tra bydd y stoc ar gael.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:
- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 17 Rhagfyr, 2009.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 17 Rhagfyr, 2009 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2009/01108/FUL.

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 14 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk
Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 14 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 26 November, 2009
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 26 Tachwedd, 2009
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

First stage of Pavilion plan gets go-ahead

THE Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has given the green light to Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd (PACL) to develop plans to refurbish and restore the Grade II Penarth Pavilion, which sits on one of only seven pleasure piers left in Wales.

Development funding of £99,600 has been awarded. The PACL plan now progresses to the next stage of the HLF application process, with up to two years to submit more detailed plans and apply for the £1.6million of HLF support for the £3.9million project.

Constructed in 1929, the ferro-concrete structure has an impressive silhouette with curved roof and eastern-style towers. The interior space is characterised by a vaulted ceiling but the building has fallen into disrepair.

Restoration plans aim to respect the building's historical significance and introduce sustainable design to protect and safeguard the building.

A HLF spokesman said: "Overwhelming community interest has already given the project tremendous impetus. Research undertaken by PACL supports a programme which will deliver many opportunities to find out more about the history of the building and the town of Penarth.

"The Bristol Channel provides a fascinating maritime past and, with its huge tidal variation, is a potential site for alternative energy. Such contemporary environmental concerns will be used as the base for an extensive range of informal and formal educational activities crossing subjects including the marine environment and sea transport."

"PACL is already working with a number of local agencies to explore alternative transport and work towards a sustainable seafront strategy.

"The business plan includes revenue from conferences, exhibitions and meetings, while the Pavilion's significant position makes it an obvious focus for many contemporary environmental concerns.

"The project will be good news for lovers of the Penarth Pier, which is used year round by local people. The pier was refurbished with HLF funding in the late 1990s and is one of the main attractions for the town."

Commenting on the award, Maggie Knight of PACL said: "We are delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund has given this initial support for the project.

"This will have a major impact on the continued development of Penarth and will bring huge cultural, social, economic and tourism benefits for the town and south Wales as a whole."

Dan Clayton Jones, chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for Wales, said: "This project aims to restore one of south Wales' iconic landmarks to its former glory. The proposed redevelopment of the Pavilion will create a focal point for community activities, as well as providing opportunities to learn more about our maritime, natural and social heritage.

"What's more, it is fundamental to the regeneration of the town's seafront. As such, we have awarded a development grant in recognition of the project's potential and the benefits it could bring to the area.

"There is huge competition for our grants, so PACL now need to develop their plans fully in order to compete for a firm award."

Dr Massini is to stand at Bridgend

DAVID BRACE, well-known in horse racing and point-to-point circles, and whose company Dunraven Windows is sponsors the Dunraven Bowl at Chepstow, has phoned me with news that the 16-year-old Listed-winning son of *Sadler's Wells*, *Dr Massini*, is to stand alongside *Needle Gun* at his Dunraven Stud Farm near Bridgend.

Dr Massini's stud career to date has been in Ireland at the Beeches Stud, and he is the sire of last week's Cheltenham winner *Tell Massini* who landed the Hyde Novices Hurdle.

Mr Brace said: "*Dr Massini*, who is likely to stand for a fee of £1,500, is the leading British-based jumps sire based on prize winning money."

Dr Massini is also the sire of *Door Boy*, an exciting National Hunt prospect who was bought out of Jessica Harrington's yard in Ireland for 185,000 guineas at the Doncaster Sales.

BRIAN LEE

Former champs at hand as boxing club opens its doors to Bridgend and the Vale

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

TWO Welsh boxing champions were on hand last week to open Bridgend's first boxing club.

Nicky Piper and Colin Jones came along to see the extensive training facilities at the Bridgend Boxing Club, facilities made possible by the financial support of Mrs Glenda Hegarty of Computer Bridgend Ltd (CBL), who joined up with David East, a former Chief Constable of South Wales Police, and now the president of the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association.

The level of equipment is such that the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association (WABA) is sending its elite squad to train there every Sunday, under Colin Jones, who is now a national coach.

The club, which is at Ewenny Road, Ogmore, on the site of the former Volvo showrooms, hopes to attract aspiring boxers from a wide area.

The Bridgend Boxing Club actually lies within the boundary of the Vale Council, and the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Emlyn Williams, was an interested spectator.

He told The GEM that he was "privileged" to be invited to the official opening of the club.

He continued: "I was delighted to receive a very warm welcome on my arrival from Mr David East, QPM, LLB, the president of the club.

"I would like to congratulate all those who have been involved. What an achievement; they must have all felt very proud and satisfied with their efforts on the opening night."

He thanked Nicky Piper and Colin Jones, for the way that they are both putting their experience into teaching young boxers.

He added: "I watched the training in the new ring and it must have been very rewarding for all to hear the youngsters (as I did), asking how they could join the club."

ABOVE: World champions Nicky Piper and Colin Jones with David East.

ABOVE: Nicky Piper opens the new club, with Mrs Glenda Hegarty, David East, the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Emlyn Williams, and the deputy mayor and consort of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Colin and Mrs Gloria Teesdale.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 2 Dec 2009

Coming soon – BID BY TEXT!

HOMES4U HOTLINE

01446 709840
01446 704316

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at **HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**, or apply in writing to:

Vale of Glamorgan Council
Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or

Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

AEL-Y-BRYN, PETERSTON S. ELY

H4U Reference 246880
Suitable for families
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £89.10 per week including water charges

CHARLOTTE STREET, PENARTH

H4U Reference 239396
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens and alarm

Rent £72.43 pw including alarm and service charges

COLLEGE PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 205179
Suitable for families
Pref. given to apps who have managed their tenancy to high standard
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £84.86 per week including water charges

COPPERFIELD COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1035923
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking
- Community alarm

Rent £69.96 per week including service charges

CWRT EIRLYS, BARRY

H4U Reference 1035654
Suitable for families
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £74.98 per week including service charges

FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 230875
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens
- Warden and alarm

Rent £78.71 pw including alarm and service charges

FALCON ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 209773
Suitable for families
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £90.04 per week including service charges

GLEBELAND PLACE, ST ATHAN

H4U Reference 248391
Suitable for families
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £88.23 per week including water charges

HARVEY STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 981890
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear gardens

Rent £63.11 per week including service charge

HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY

H4U Reference 1035945
Suitable for families who need disabled facility inc. wetroom
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear gardens
- Parking

Rent £78.87 per week including service charge

HYWEL CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 212926
Suitable for families
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.53 per week including water charges

OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 995592
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical need)
- One-bed studio
- Ground floor
- Manager and alarm

Rent £85.95 pw including alarm and service charges
Visitors welcome call **02920 701661**

PARDOE CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 218932
Suitable for families
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.26 per week including water charges

PHILIPPA FREETH CT, BARRY

H4U Reference 988238
Suitable for a single person over 55
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor (lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking and alarm
- Warden and gardens

Rent £97.96 per week including service charges

ST DONATS CL, LLANTWIT MJR

H4U Reference 1030984
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical need)
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Community alarm

Rent £63.32 pw including alarm and service charges
Visitors welcome call Carol on **0800 05202526**

ST LUKES AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 245478
Suit. for a single person, couple or family - no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £73.04 per week including service charges

ST PAULS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 245923
Suitable for families - no pets
- Three-bed maisonette
- First floor
- Central heating
- Gardens

Rent £78.97 per week including service charges

TREHARNE ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 226513
Suitable for a single person or couple - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £66.62 per week including service charges

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – MAIN STREET, BARRY

A new development on Main Street, Barry

Newydd Housing Association is committed to providing safe sustainable housing in the Cadoxton area and is endevouring to ensure that the scheme is occupied by a sustainable mix of tenants.

Therefore expressions of interest are invited from members of HOMES4U.

The scheme consists of
- 5 x Three-bedroom houses
- 13 x Two bedroom flats - 5 first floor, 5 2nd floor and 3 ground floor
- Secured entrances and parking
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

Occupation of the properties expected early February

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – FRANCIS ROAD, BARRY

Expressions of interest are requested for this new development on Francis Road, Barry
Suitable for families
- 7 x two-bedroom houses
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking
- Enclosed rear gardens

Two properties will be ready for December with five more following in January. Some priority will be given to families living in overcrowded conditions

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Gwyn James Ct	10	Gold	29/04/08
St Dyfrig Rd	97	Gold	25/08/09

Council propery feedback will appear in next advert

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Imagine the finest estate agent... selling your home

www.chris-davies.co.uk

Chris Davies

residential sales & lettings

Lettings 01446 711900

lettings@chris-davies.co.uk

1 BEDROOM

Romanza House, Barry.....£450 pcm
YMCA Building, Barry.....£420 pcm
Glan y Dwr, Barry.....£475 pcm
Murlande Way, Rhoose.....£375 pcm

2 BEDROOMS

Orellana House, Barry.....£550 pcm
Beaufort Way, Rhoose.....£525 pcm
Murlande Way, Rhoose.....£475 pcm
Partridge Road, St Athan.....£450 pcm

3 BEDROOMS

Ceri Avenue, Rhoose.....£575 pcm
Heol y Dryw, Rhoose.....£595 pcm
Cwrt Newton Pool, Rhoose.....£625 pcm
Picton Road, Rhoose.....£695 pcm
Scott Close, St Athan.....£475 pcm
Scott Close, St Athan.....£500 pcm
Eurgan Close, Llantwit Major.....£650 pcm

4 BEDROOMS

Mayflower Way, Rhoose.....£850 pcm
Porthkerry Road, Rhoose.....£1,000 pcm

6 BEDROOMS

Porfa Ballas.....£1,250 pcm

More properties urgently required for waiting tenants

The Property Ombudsman LETTINGS

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Groeswen, Llantwit Major

A modern detached family property built by Persimmon Homes in the early nineties. Briefly the property comprises entrance hallway, cloakroom/WC, sitting room, kitchen/diner, conservatory, 4 bedrooms, an en suite shower room and a family bathroom. Outside is an open plan garden to the front with a driveway and garage whilst the rear is enclosed, landscaped and westerly. The property enjoys timber framed double glazed windows and doors and gas central heating. Internal viewing highly recommended. Property available for occupation end of March 2010.

£239,995

Villa Martin South Costa Blanca

just 20 minutes from Murcia Airport

- 3 Bed Town House.
- Fully Furnished.
- Private Solarium.
- Communal Swimming Pool.
- Walking distance to Golf, Shops, Bars and Restaurants.
- 5 Minutes Drive to beaches.
- 35 Minutes Alicante Airport.

Bargain £139,500 – originally purchased 3 years ago for 210,000 Euros excluding the furniture!

Call Paul for free 0800 135 7503

Paul is extremely helpful and speaks your language. Originally from Cardiff Paul has lived in Spain with his wife for nearly 10 years so he is well placed to answer all your questions about buying and living in Spain.

PROPERTY WANTED 01446 791963

Llantwit Major: Two and three bedroom houses on Pentre Cwrt for waiting buyers.

St Athan: Two and three bedroom houses in West Camp (Bullfinch, Starling or similar).

Due to recent sales we now need property in all prices ranges.

OUR BUYERS ARE HOT!

Please contact Simon on 01446 791963 for a free no obligation valuation.

Llantwit Major 01446 792020

Boverton Brook, Llantwit Major

4 bed extended detached family home. **£260,000**

Bedford Rise, Llantwit Major

NEW

Spacious 3 bed family house. **£135,000**

Glenn Cottage, College Street Llantwit Major

2 bed period cottage. **£229,000**

Glebeland Place, St Athan

3 bed semi with conservatory and garage **£159,950**

Drake Close, St Athan

3 bed semi with garage. **£139,950**

Byron Court, Llantwit Major

1 bed 1st floor retirement home with lift. **£69,950**

Woodside Hamlet, Llantwit Major

2 bed holiday lodge. **£99,950**

RHOOSE – TO LET

AVAILABLE NOW!

2 bed ground floor flat

£450 pcm

01446 792020

Rhoose 01446 711900

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Birthdays

Fred Austin

Happy 80th Birthday

2nd December 2009

Lots of love, Mavis, Lorraine and Vernon, Steve and Jan, Ralph and Mary, and all your grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, niece and cousins.

Have a great party on the 5th!

XXXXX

Happy 16th Birthday!

Jade Bennett

26th November

Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Nan & Grampy, Mark, Stacy, Braiden & Bump. XXXXX

ADELE BAKER

HAPPY

40th + 10

BIRTHDAY

Lots of love

Tony, Jodie, Leigh, Matthew, Emerald and Tiyren XXX

Congratulations

Golden Wedding Anniversary

28th November 2009

Jim & Doreen O'Callaghan

Congratulations Mum and Dad on your Golden Wedding Anniversary.

All our love, Lynne, Rhys, Ashley, Lina and the girls.

XXXXX

Family Notices

WOOD Winnie

Peacefully on November 11 at Llandough Hospital, in her 96th year, Winnie (Win) of Rhoose.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday December 1, service 1.15pm at Bethel Church, Castle Road, Rhoose, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

LYNCH Bronwen

Peacefully, on Nov 18 at her home in Llantwit Major, Bronwen (Bron) beloved wife of Terry, wonderful mother of Alison, Robert and Andrew, a much loved grandmother of Jessica, Georgia and Harry.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon, where family flowers may be sent. Funeral Fri Dec 4, service 2pm at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. Donations if desired may be sent to Save The Children Fund c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

ARNOLD

Terence Norman (Terry)

Peacefully at Holme Towers on Friday November 20, 2009, Terry, beloved and best friend of Marian, Llanblethian, Cowbridge.

Loving brother of Jillian and Pauline and brother-in-law to Jane and Russell.

Devoted uncle to his nephews and nieces.

Funeral Tuesday December 1 at Llanblethian Church, at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Llanblethian Church. Family flowers only, but donations if required to Holme Towers, care of Thomas Bros., Mitson Cottages, Llandough, Cowbridge CF77 7LR.

John Allen

Hilary and family would like to thank friends for attending the funeral of John Allen on November 18, 2009, and for their cards and words of support and comfort.

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Public Notices

ASIANTAETH YR AMGYLCHEDD DEDDF ADNODDAU DŴR 1991 (FEL Y'I NEWIDIWYD GAN DDEDDF YR AMGYLCHEDD 1995) RHYBUDD O GAIS AM GANIATÂD AT DDIBENION ADRAN 88

RHODDIR RHYBUDD DRWY HYN yn unol ag Atodlen 10 Deddf Adnoddau Dŵr 1991 bod cais wedi'i gyflwyno gan Gyngor Bro Morgannwg i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd am ganiatâd i ollwng hyd at 7.9 metr ciwbig y dydd o elifion carthion domestig sydd wedi cael triniaeth drydyddol i mewn i'r ddaear drwy system ymdreiddio yng Nghyfeirnod Grid Cenedlaethol SS 91903 68863, o Waith Trin Carthion Marcroes, Marcroes, Llanilltud Fawr, CF61 1ZG.

Dylai unrhyw un sy'n dymuno cyflwyno sylwadau ynghylch y cais wneud hynny'n ysgrifenedig drwy anfon y sylwadau at Grant Wilson, Arweinydd Tim yn y cyfeiriad canlynol: The Environment Agency, Water Quality Permitting Support Centre, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Parkway Business Park, Sheffield, S9 4WF. Dylid cyflwyno'r sylwadau rhwng 26/11/09 a 7/1/10 gan ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod NPSWQD009606.

Dylech fod yn ymwybodol o'r ffaith y gall unrhyw sylwadau a gyflwynir fod ar gael i drydydd partion eu gweld dan y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth neu Reoliadau Gwybodaeth Amgylcheddol 2004.

Gellir gweld copi o'r cais yn rhad ac am ddim yn swyddfa leol Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn y cyfeiriad canlynol: Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru, Y Gofrestr Gyhoeddus, Maes Newydd, Llandarsi, Castell-nedd Port Talbot, SA10 6JQ rhwng 9am a 4.30pm o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener (heblaw am Wyliau Banc). Dylech gysylltu ymlaen llaw i drefnu apwyntiad drwy ffonio'r Ganolfan Cyswllt Cwsmeriaid Genedlaethol ar 08708 506 506.

Simon Grantham
Ar ran Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd
Dyddiedig 26/11/09

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY WATER RESOURCES ACT 1991 (AS AMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995) NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 88

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Schedule 10 of the Water Resources Act 1991 that an application has been made to the Environment Agency by Vale of Glamorgan Council for consent to discharge up to 7.9 cubic metres per day of Tertiary treated domestic sewage effluent to ground via an infiltration system at National Grid Reference SS 91903 68863 from Marcross Sewage Treatment Works, Marcross, Llantwit Major, CF61 1ZG.

Any person who wishes to make representations about the application should do so in writing to Grant Wilson, Team Leader, The Environment Agency, Water Quality Permitting Support Centre, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Parkway Business Park, Sheffield, S9 4WF, during the period 26/11/09 to 7/1/10 quoting reference NPSWQD009606.

Please be aware that any representation may be made available to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge at the Local Environment Agency office at Environment Agency Wales, Public Register, Maes Newydd, Llandarcy, Neath Port Talbot, SA10 6JQ between the hours of 9 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday (not Bank Holidays). Please ring in advance to arrange an appointment by calling the National Customer Contact Centre on 08708 506 506.

Simon Grantham
On behalf of The Environment Agency
Dated 26/11/09

NOTICE

LICENSING ACT 2003

BEN BENNETT has applied for the variation of a premises licence pursuant to Sections 34/37 of the Licensing Act, 2003 for the following licensing activities at Gordon Bennett, 12-14 Broad Street, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan.

This application is to vary the premises licence to provide regulated entertainment from Monday to Thursday between 1000 and 2400 hours and on Friday and Saturday from 1000 to 0300 hours and on Sunday between 1100 and 0300 hours and the sale by retail of alcohol on Monday to Thursday from 1000 to 2400 hours and on Friday to Sunday 1000 to 0300 hours.

This application also includes the removal of a number of converted conditions.

The application can be inspected at the Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Section, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF63 4RU.

Any interested party responsible authority may make representations to the relevant Licensing Authority by the 18th day of December 2009.

Any representation shall be made in writing.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.00.

The Glamorgan **GEM**

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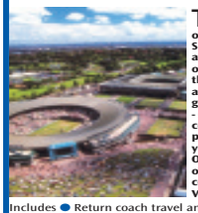

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HALF PRICE HOTPOINT Aquarius dishwasher. Silver, perfect working order, 2 years old. New £299, now £150 ono. Stainless steel extractor hood £50. Tel: 01446 710760. **(48)**

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RATTAN Conservatory suite. Off white cushions, two seater sofa, 2 armchairs, coffee table, VGC £300. Tel: 01446 781982. **(48)**

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NEW SHOPRIDER Scooter with new wheelchair, together £500. Bathmaster Sonaris £200. Castle adjustable cot size £100. Bathmate Majic air cushion £200 (still in box). Tel: 01656 890489. **(47)**

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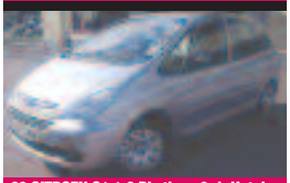
07 CITROEN C2 1.1i Design 3-dr Hatch Red, 21,343 miles £5995

56 Xsara Picasso 1.6 16v Desire 5-dr Est. Silver, 44,080 miles £6995



08 CITROEN C1 1.0 Rhythmn 3-dr Hatch Grey, 12,560 miles £6995

CITROEN C1

08	1.0 Rhythm 3dr Hatch	Grey	12,560 miles	£6,995

CITROEN C2

58	1.4 HDi VTR 3dr Diesel Hatch	Black	9,900 miles	£8,995
08	1.4 VTR 3dr Hatch	Silver	15,700 miles	£7,995
57	1.1i Cool 3dr Hatch Sp Eds	Black	19,555 miles	£6,495
07	1.1i Airplay + 3 dr Hatch Sp Eds	Yellow	12,133 miles	£6,495
07	1.1i Design 3-dr Hatch	Red	21,343 miles	£5,995
56	1.4i SX 5-dr Hatch	Grey	19,000 miles	£6,495

CITROEN C3

09	Pluriel 1.4i Cote d'Azur 2dr SE	Black	50 miles	£10,995
08	1.4i Rhythm 5dr Hatch	Grey	9,291 miles	£7,995
08	1.4i Cool 5dr Hatch SE	Grey	10,214 miles	£7,495
57	1.4i Cool 5dr Hatch SE	Silver	7,200 miles	£7,495
07	1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch SE	Silver	14,200 miles	£6,995
55	1.6i 16v Exclusive 5-dr Sensodrive	Blue	24,000 miles	£6,495

CITROEN C4

08	1.6HDi 16v VTR PLus 3dr Dsl	Silver	10,364 miles	£8,995
56	1.6iHDi 16v SX 5dr Dsl Hatch	Silver	19,000 miles	£7,995
56	1.6 16v Cool 3-dr Coupe Sp Eds	Silver	29,002 miles	£6,995
55	1.6i 16v SX 5-dr Auto Hatch	Silver	25,700 miles	£6,495
05	1.4i16v VT 3-dr Coupe	Black	31,079	£4,995

CITROEN C4 PICASSO

08	1.6HDi 16v VTR Plus 5dr D Est	Black	12,670 miles	£14.495
57	2.0i 16v SX 5dr EGS Estate	Silver	7,723 miles	£10,995

CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO

08	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Blue	8,749 miles	£14,995
58	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Grey	19,441 miles	£14,995
57	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Mauve	12,659 miles	£13,995

CITROEN C5

09	1.6HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr Dsl	Red	4,518 miles	£14,995

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03	2.0 16v SX 5-dr Auto Estate	Silver	40,000 miles	£6,795

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08	1.6 16v Forte 5dr Estate	Beige	17,050 miles	£7,295
07	1.6i 16v Forte 5dr Estate	Silver	9,797 miles	£6,595

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO

07	1.6 HDi 92 VTX 5dr Diesel Estate	Grey	23,706 miles	£8,695
07	1.6i 16v Desire 5dr Estate	Silver	44,080 miles	£6,995
56	1.6 HDi 92 Exclusive 5-dr Diesel Est	Grey	22,000 miles	£8,495
56	1.6i 16v Exclusive 5-dr Estate	Red	10,689 miles	£7,495
56	1.6 HDi Exclusive 5dr Diesel Estate	Grey	58,000 miles	£6,995
06	2.0 16v VTX 5dr Auto Estate	Blue	30,000 miles	£8,595

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09	2.2 HDi H1 Van 120ps 33 L1 Dsl	White	3150 miles	£12,645

57 C4 Picasso 2.0i 16v SX 5-dr EGS 5-Seat Estate. Silver, 7,723 miles £10995

56 Citroen C3 1.4i SX 5-dr Hatch Grey, 19,000 miles £6495

57 C4 Grand Picasso 1.6HDi 16v VTR Plus 5-dr Est. Mauve, 12,659 mls £13,995

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165/70TR13	Bridgestone B250	£45.83	£87	£165	165/70TR13 Avon CR322	£36.61	£68	£130	165/70TR13 Hero	£26.30	£49	£95
175/70TR14	Bridgestone B250	£57.79	£110	£200	175/70TR14 Avon CR322	£45.27	£85	£160	175/70TR14 Hero	£29.05	£55	£105
175/65TR14	Bridgestone B250	£47.15	£89	£170	175/65TR14 Avon CR322	£40.10	£75	£140	175/65TR14 Federal	£30.59	£59	£115

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185/65HR14	Bridgestone B250	£63.83	£120	£225	185/65HR14 Avon ZV3	£50.51	£95	£185	185/65HR14 Hero	£31.38	£60	£115
185/65HR15	Bridgestone ER300	£73.84	£140	£265	185/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£54.89	£105	£199	185/65HR15 Federal	£35.88	£67	£130
195/65HR15	Bridgestone B250	£66.20	£125	£235	195/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£52.02	£99	£190	195/65HR15 Hero	£34.90	£65	£125

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195/60VR15	Bridgestone ER300	£68.71	£130	£249	195/60VR15 Avon ZV5	£58.66	£112	£215	195/60VR15 Federal	£37.96	£72	£140
195/65VR15	Bridgestone ER300	£64.34	£120	£230	195/65VR15 Avon ZV5	£51.14	£97	£185	195/65VR15 Federal	£39.06	£75	£145
205/55VR16	Bridgestone ER300	£66.73	£125	£235	205/55VR16 Avon ZV5	£62.66	£120	£230	205/55VR16 Federal	£46.86	£90	£175

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205/55WR16	Bridgestone ER300	£72.40	£140	£265	205/55WR16 Avon ZV5	£66.20	£128	£249	205/55WR16 Hero	£47.62	£89	£170
225/45YR17	Bridgestone RE050	£102.54	£195	£375	225/45YR17 XL Avon ZV5	£85.94	£165	£320	225/45WR17 XL Hero	£49.46	£94	£180
225/40YR18 XL	Br'stone RE050	£115.98	£220	£420	225/40YR18 XL Avon ZV5	£103.62	£199	£385	225/40WR18 Hero	£58.70	£110	£210

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Five Bridgend girls star in cross country championships

South Wales Regional School cross-country

by PETE MORRIS

FIVE girls from Bridgend County Borough claimed individual medals at the 12th South Wales Regional Schools cross-country championships for girls, held, for the third consecutive year, by Steve Brace and his Bridgend AC clubhouse at Newbridge Fields.

The opening race, the senior event for pupils in year-11 and the sixth form, was dominated by last year's defending title-holder, year-12 Zoe Thomas (Porthcawl) and under-15 champion and Cwmfelin resident, Ffion Lewis (YG Llanhari).

Cwmfelin resident Ffion Lewis (YG Llanhari) added the senior title to her 2008 win at u15.

With Thomas having won her section each time for the last four years, there was significant pressure on her and she trailed home a distant second – looking very under the weather, as well as admitting that she had fallen on the course.

That win for Lewis, who attends YG Llanhari in Rhondda Cynon Taf, will do much to boost her self-confidence, and it will be interesting to follow her progress in the major races this winter. Her big rivals in year 11 are the Price twins from Llandrindod in Powys, Ffion and Rhianwedd.

There was a surprise individual result in the under-13 race, arguably the toughest of the day. Jazmine Briganti (Brynteg), second in last year's race, the pre-race favourite, led the field for much of the race but she was tracked by another year-8, Annabel Curle of Cowbridge, who then proved to be the stronger in the closing stages, claiming victory by the margin of one second.

Brynteg year 8 Jazmine Briganti had to settle for second place in the u13 race.

Because of the number of participants, eight individual medals are awarded at under-13, and Bridgend county girls gained a further two. Year-8 Nia Ward, 10th in last year's fixture, claimed a first-ever medal for Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd in claiming fourth place, while Rosa Yates (Brynteg) showed considerable potential by finishing seventh, the first year-7 to finish.

In the final event of the afternoon, the under-15 race, the only one to be held in a rain shower, year-10 Jessica Hegarty (Brynteg) was the highest placed Bridgend girl, finishing seventh.

Only one Bridgend squad claimed team medals – the Brynteg under-13 squad of Briganti, Yates, Sinead Loundes (44th) and Elizabeth Grandville (46th) lost the second placed medals by one point to Cardiff's Whitchurch High – but mention must be made of another Bridgend county school. Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd only opened it's doors in 2008 with a year-7 intake.

Rosa Yates (Brynteg, 7th), the first year 7 girl to finish in the u13 race.

This year, they have extended to a second year group, but have had little time to prepare for this event, yet, with Ms Caryl James of the PE Department as team manager, they deserve great credit for fielding two under-13 teams at a time when seven of the Bridgend secondary schools did not field a single competitor!

Bridgend AC team-mates Jessica Hegarty (Brynteg, 282) and Fiona Bray (Cowbridge, 80) battle it out for seventh place in the u15 race.

With the regional championships completed, interest will now switch to selection, as the south Wales regional team manager, Mrs Julie Jones of Llantwit, finalises the squads of 15 to compete at the 12th Welsh Inter Regional championships at Builth Wells on December 13.

Results – Bridgend girls

Senior Girls (4.4 km) – Years-11 to 14

1 Ffion Lewis (YG Llanhari) 16:10; 2 Zoe Thomas (P'cawl) 16:52; 30 Jessica Avons (B'teg) 23:59

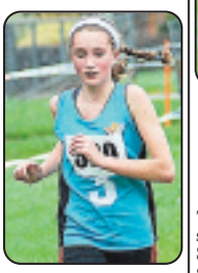
Under-15 girls (3.7 km) – Years 9 and 10

7 Jessica Hegarty (B'teg) 14:06; 23 Hollie Short (P'cawl) 15:26; 39 Angharad Masson (P'cawl) 16:19; 47 Isabel Hughes (B'teg) 16:36; 86 Charlotte Mundy (P'cawl) 18:27; 92 Bethan Masson (P'cawl); 93 Robyn Wilkins (P'cawl); 96 Stephanie Kelly (P'cawl); 119 Lauren Downes (P'cawl); 124 Lucy Damachowski (B'teg); 126 Lucy Ellis (B'teg); 127 Jessica Miles (B'teg)

Teams: 11 Porthcawl 240; 13 Brynteg 304

Under-13 girls (2.8 km) – Years 7 and 8

2 Jazmine Briganti (B'teg) 9:57; 4 Nia Ward (YG Ll'wyd) 10:15; 7 Rosa Yates (B'teg) 10:21; 14 Olivia Norris (P'cawl) 10:51; 44 Sinead Loundes (B'teg) 11:54; 48 Elizabeth Grandville (B'teg); 60 Chantelle Jones (B'teg); 65 Shahnann Purcell (Ogmore); 68 Bethan Eales (P'cawl); 78 Natalia Londero (Ogmore); 95 Bronwyn Wictome (B'teg); 105 Jodie Grabham (YG Ll'wyd); 110 Emily Kembery (Ogmore); 111 Gabrielle Haxton (B'teg); 119 Catrin Masson (YG Ll'wyd); 122 Lauren Harris (P'cawl); 126 Ffion Wareham (Ogmore); 127 Megan Elsbury (Ogmore); 130 Louisa Carr (Ogmore); 135 Emily Brice (YG Ll'wyd); 136 Caitlin Perry (YG Ll'wyd); 137 Lydia Davies (Ogmore); 138 Ffion Wilkins (P'cawl); 139 Grace Merritt (Ogmore); 141 Gwenan Jenkins (YG Ll'wyd); 149 Abbey Parsons (B'teg); 157 Ffion Morgan (YG Ll'wyd); 158 Maisie Isaac (Ogmore); 159 Carys Hopkins (Ogmore); 163 Emily Bennett (Ogmore); 170 Sophia Parker (YG Ll'wyd); 174 Becky Wardman (P'cawl); 185 Shauna Williams (B'teg); 191 Nia Vaughan (B'teg); 192 Chloe Stringer (P'cawl); 199 Caitlin James (Ogmore); 203 Bethan David (Ogmore); 204 Chloe Stanford (Ogmore); 218 Ellie Morrison (B'teg); 219 Nia Grinnell (B'teg).



Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd year 8 pupil Nia Ward claimed the school's first ever medal at this event.

Zoe Thomas (Porthcawl) had to settle for second in the senior race.

Teams: A Teams: 3 Brynteg 101; 14 Porthcawl 342; 15 YG Llangynwyd 363; 17 Ogmore 379; B Teams: 7 Brynteg B 415; 12 Ogmore B 533; 15 YG Llangynwyd B 604; 18 Ogmore C 679; 22 Brynteg C 813

COWBRIDGE GIRL TAKES TITLE BY JUST ONE SECOND!

Photos by IAN DIXON.

South Wales Regional School cross-country championships

ABOVE: Annabel Curle (Cowbridge) - double gold medallist.

ABOVE: Individual second but team gold for Megan Osborne (Llantwit).

ABOVE: Holly Preece (87) and Alyson Bater (88), the first two finishers for the third placed Cowbridge senior team.

There was joy for pupils from four Vale schools at the 12th South Wales Regional Schools cross-country championships for girls, held, for the third consecutive year, by Steve Brace and his Bridgend AC clubhouse at Newbridge Fields.

The opening race, the senior event for pupils in year 11 and the sixth form, was dominated by last year's defending title-holder, Zoe Thomas (Porthcawl) and under-15 champion, Ffion Lewis (YG Llanhari), with Lewis claiming the win.

Behind them, it was the much improved Bethan Daw, sadly the only St Cyres competitor, who took the bronze medal for third place.

More individual medals are awarded in the younger age groups, because of the greater numbers of participants – five in the under-15 race for pupils in years 9 and 10, and eight at under-13 (years 7 and 8).

There was a surprise individual result in the under-13 race, arguably the toughest of the day. Jazmine Briganti (Brynteg), second in last year's race, the pre-race favourite, led the field for much of the race but she was tracked by another year-8, Annabel Curle of Cowbridge, who then proved to be the stronger in the closing stages, claiming victory by just one second. Also gaining medals were Kate Coker (Stanwell, fourth) and Erin Hayes (Llantwit, sixth).

The final event of the afternoon, the under-15 race, the only one to be held in a rain shower, brought a head to head between the last two under-13 champions – Megan Osborne (Llantwit, 2007) and Rebecca Evans (Y Pant, 2008).

Although she has had comfortable wins in both of the Cardiff & the Vale Schools leagues at Trelai, Osborne was no match for Evans on this occasion and had to settle for second place.

In addition to the individual medals, there were also team successes. The Cowbridge girls can feel particularly pleased as they were placed in all three age groups – second in the seniors, third at under-15, and clear winners in the under-13 race thanks to the quartet of Curle, Jordan Carpenter (ninth), Elinor Bishop (26th) and Rebecca Thomas (30th). That under-13 team title has been won for the last two years by Llantwit – and they did not go away empty handed. With the girls moving up a section, they claimed the under-15 title thanks to the efforts of Osborne, Anthea Young (8th), Lucy Tarrant (11th) and Aimee Price 46th).

With the regional championships completed, interest will now switch to selection as the south Wales team manager, Mrs Julie Jones of Llantwit, finalises the squads of fifteen to compete at the 12th Welsh Inter Regional championships at Builth Wells on December 13th.

News is also expected of the girls to be invited to compete for Cardiff & the Vale Schools at the Inter-District and Inter-Counties Schools match to be held as part of Cardiff UK Cross Challenge, at Blackweir, on Sunday, January 17th, 2010.

Results of Vale Girls

Senior girls (4.4 km) – Years 11 to 14 – 39 finishers

3 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) 16:57; 12 Amy Baldry (Lwt) 20:55; 14 Holly Preece (Cow) 21:32; 15 Alyson Bater (Cow) 21:35; 21 Lucy Williams (Cow) 22:32; 22 Natalie Parsons (Lwt) 22:51; 24 Rosie Dent (Cow) 22:56; 27 Verity Morgan (Cow) 23:39; 37 Seren Carter (Lwt) 28:14; 38 Katie Prinn (Lwt) 28:15

Teams: 2 Cowbridge 74; 6 Llantwit 109

Erin Hayes (Llantwit), sixth placed medal in the under-13 race.

Under-15 girls (3.7 km) – Years 10 & 11 – 127 finishers

2 Megan Osborne (Lwt) 13:25; 8 Anthea Young (Lwt) 14:14; 11 Lucy Tarrant (Lwt) 14:23; 12 Fiona Bray (Cow) 14:28; 22 Mirriam Bennett (Cow) 15:17; 26 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) 15:41; 30 Kanisha-Mae Underdown (Bryn H) 15:48; 37 Rebecca John (Cow) 16:17; 46 Katy Mellin (Bryn H) 16:31; 49 Aimee Price (Lwt) 16:41; 53 Ella Hughes (Lwt) 16:52; 63 Melissa Gooding (Cow) 17:29; 67 Jodie Price (Bryn H) 17:35; 68 Hannah Jones (Bryn H) 17:40; 74 Bethany Cleave (Lwt) 18:05; 82 Sarah Herbert (Bryn H); 83 Aimee Parsons (Lwt); 89 Katie Mills (Bryn H); 95 Emily Bonney (Cow); 103 Sophie Pitcock (Cow); 109 Zoe Hodgkinson (Bryn H); 117 Sophie George (Lwt)

Teams: 1 Llantwit 70; 3 Cowbridge 97; 10 Bryn Hafren 211; B Teams: 4 Llantwit B 327

Under-13 girls (2.8 km) – Years 7 & 8 – 231 finishers

1 Annabel Curle (Cow) 09:56; 5 Kate Coker (Stan) 10:16; 6 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 10:18; 9 Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 10:32; 15 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 10:53; 19 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 11:13; 24 Chloe Lewis (Stan) 11:26; 25 Anna Mirza-Davies (Stan) 11:31; 26 Elinor Bishop (Cow) 11:32; 30 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 11:38; 33 Alice Tudor (Cow); 37 Chloe Hughes (Lwt); 45 Lydia Parsons (Lwt); 47 Charlotte Webber (Bryn H); 48 Elizabeth Grandville Brynteg; 56 Laura Gale (Stan); 59 Nadine James (Cow); 69 Zola Hargreaves (Stan); 72 Sophie Morse (Bryn H); 75 Brooke Langden-Cryer (Cow); 76 Jess Cushin (Bryn H); 81 Josie Price (Lwt); 85 Dominique Mears (Cow); 86 Laura Braggins (Lwt); 87 Maisie Squire (Stan); 88 Evie Williams (Cow); 93 Ella Dyer (Stan); 96 Eleanor Hicks (Lwt); 98 Ela Emyr (Cow); 113 Ffion Hopkin (Cow); 115 Laura Young (Lwt); 116 Niamh Gallagher (Cow); 121 Sophie Thomas (Cow); 125 Devon Perry (Lwt); 132 Nicole Rose (Stan); 134 Laurie Thomas (Cow); 150 Jenny Arthur (Stan); 151 Yoko Hargreaves (Stan); 164 Emma Davies (Stan); 165 Alex Hopkins (Bryn H); 166 Emma Young (Lwt); 167 Milly Williams (Stan); 178 Suzie Collins (Stan); 179 Bethany King (Lwt); 183 Rhian Thomas (Lwt); 184 Rebecca Horne (Lwt); 200 Tamara Pitt (Lwt); 201 Rhian Jones (Lwt); 208 Aimee Miller (Lwt); 209 Georgia Harris (Lwt); 212 Molly Brown (Lwt); 214 Melissa Gray (Lwt)

Teams: 1 Cowbridge 66; 5 Stanwell 110; 7 Bryn Hafren 153; 10 Llantwit 169; B Teams: 2 Cowbridge B 252; 6 Stanwell B 381; 8 Cowbridge C 415; 10 Llantwit B 422; 16 Stanwell C 632; 19 Llantwit C 712; 23 Llantwit D 818.

Winners take a bow at the Brynhill Golf Club

MEMBERS of Brynhill Golf Club dressed in their finery and came together at the clubhouse to recognise the achievements of its members in 2009.

The proceedings were conducted by club captain Colin Lloyd and his vice-captain, John Kirkpatrick – but were opened by lady captain Jo Hopkins and vice-captain Linda Hewlett.

Some of the many presentations made included: Lady champion – Sam Pascoe; Rabbits and Tigers winners – Olwen Thomas and Chris Hopkins; Peggy Lane Cup – Helene Cook; Lady Reardon-Smith Silver Salver – Diane Tapscott and Nicci Meheut; John Lowden Cup – Gemma Evans; Bob Hope Rose Bowl bronze section – Sue Holland; Four-Ball Better Ball trophy – Lynne Bubbins and Carole Allen.

The Jenny Williams trophy was presented to Robbie Lee by the lady captain, saying "she was the sort of person anyone would want on their team, willing to help on all occasions."

At the conclusion of all the presentations and in time-honoured tradition cups were filled with beverages and passed around for toasts.

JP

Carole Allen and Lynne Bubbins, Four-Ball Better Ball trophy winners, with lady captain Jo Hopkins..

Bob Hope Rose Bowl, bronze winner Sue Holland.

Club champion Sam Pascoe.

Nicci Meheut and Di Tapscott, Lady Reardon-Smith Silver Salver winners with the lady captain (centre)..

ACCOLADE FOR LOCAL OLYMPIANS

Sporting stars enter the Vale Hall of Fame

TWO local sports stars were the first to be named in the Vale of Glamorgan's new Hall of Fame recently at the County Library in Barry.

Officially opened by Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams, and the Mayoress, the hall recognises the international sporting and cultural achievements of people who have an association with the Vale.

Olympic and world silver medallist swimmer David Davies, from Barry, and Olympic, World and British road race cycling champion Nicole Cooke, from Wick, were the first to be honoured with mounted plaques.

They were unable to attend due to training commitments, and were represented by their families.

David's grandparents, Mr and Mrs Stark, proudly represented their grandson. Mr Stark said: "We are happy to attend any event in David's place and celebrate his achievements.

"He's always been very dedicated and that shows through his success. I know he's pleased to have received this award."

Denise Cooke, who represented her daughter, Nicole, said: "I'd like to thank everyone for supporting Nicole. We're very proud of her and I'd like to extend my thanks to the council for honouring her, and David's, sporting achievements."

Coun Williams said: "Through the hard work and commitment to their sport, they have become local heroes and will act as role models to the young people of the Vale.

"We hope the council's recognition of their achievements in the Hall of Fame will inspire young people to succeed in their chosen field."

Pictured are Mayoress Joan Williams, chief executive John Maitland Evans, Coun Emlyn Williams, Council Leader Gordon Kemp, Denise Cooke, senior librarian Sandra Wildsmith, Mr and Mrs Brian Stark.

The Cowbridge Squash Club is going greener

COWBRIDGE Squash Club has announced that, thanks to a grant supported by the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services, through the Kick Start 111 Grant Scheme, the club is about to reduce its carbon footprint substantially by installing roofing insulation in all three of its courts.

A spokesman said: "Many thanks to Gareth Simpson, who instigated the grant application, and Mike Board, Nick Merrett, Graham Bradwick and Ian Taylor for their work in the preparation of the costings.

"Also to Lyn Thomas of the Cowbridge Rugby Club for his help."

Now the funding has been put in place, the club will be looking for volunteers to install the material in the near future.

All members who are prepared to give a few hours of their time should let Mike Board know, as he will be project managing the purchasing and installation of the material.

Missed tackles cost Llantwit under-12s dear

ON Sunday, November 15, Llantwit under-12s played Gwernyfed, near Brecon, at home in the first round of the Blues competition.

Llantwit started well, with the forwards winning good ball. The ball came out to the Llantwit backs on halfway where Richard Dangerfield beat a couple of defenders and ran 45 metres to score under the posts for Iestyn Jones to convert.

Both packs fought hard for possession with good drives from Gwernyfed, and they drew level with a try.

In the second half, the Llantwit forwards continued to win ball but Llantwit didn't move it to the wings and chances went begging.

Gwernyfed backs moved the ball at pace and a series of missed tackles let them in twice to make the final score 17-7.

Good luck to them in the next round.

SR

Harriers' quiz night

HIGH STREET Harriers FC are having a fundraising quiz night at The Ship (Hungry Horse) in Barry, on Friday, December 4, at 7pm.

It costs £10 per team (up to four in each team) to enter and the Hungry Horse has donated a voucher for a prize.

There will also be a raffle with lots of prizes.

Pre-booking is a necessity, contact Justin on 07894 758164.

Under-11s cruise to Blues Cup victory

COWBRIDGE	**49**
CRICC	**14**

COWBRIDGE under-11s progressed to the second round of the Blues Cup with a convincing win against CRICC.

Within minutes of the kick-off, Cowbridge opened the scoring with a try by Rhys Barnard. Tries followed from James Holder and Cai Evans, all converted by Cai Evans, giving the home side a 21-point lead.

CRICC hit back with a good try and only brave tackling by Seán Davies and Matthew Keating prevented CRICC scoring again. Just before half-time, Dan Bunny scored for Cowbridge to ease the pressure. Outstanding forward play by Duncan Ace, Harry Hopkins and Tomos Evans-Williams, and good tackling from Charlie Martin and Toff Patel contributed to further tries by James Holder, Dan Bunney and Osian John.

Although CRICC scored a consolation try, Cowbridge completed a deserved win.

In a second match, Cowbridge ran out winners by 14-12. Try scorers for Cowbridge were Sam John and Harrison Stevens, both converted by Charlie Pegrum.

Full squad: Osian John, Cai Evans, Rhys Barnard, James Holder, Harrison Stevens, Sean Davies, Charlie Pegrum, Toff Patel, Michael Thomas, Duncan Ace, Charlie Martin, Mathew Keating, Harry Hopkins, Joe Watts, Dan Bunney, Tomos Evan-Williams.

ML

Local businessman makes Sully Sports FC the leaders of fashion!

SULLY Sports FC seniors are leaders of sporting fashion, thanks to a local business, Gary Watson Motor Company, providing the squad with tracksuits, t-shirts, training tops and weather proof equipment for the 2009/10 season.

The business recently opened a used car sales garage situated opposite the old Barry Hotel in Broad Street Barry.

Gary made the decision to support local sport and chose Sully Sports.

Club captain Adam Govier said: "It is due to generous people like Gary that local clubs can progress their potential for higher level football.

"Local clubs like Sully Sports would not survive without such support".

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07 **57 LANDROVER Discovery TDV 6 HSE Auto** in Java black met with full ebony leather interior, 7 seats, full colour touch screen navigation, bluetooth phone prep, Kardon Harman stereo upgrade, electric heated memory seats, only 29,000 miles, fsh, sunroof **£29,995**

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07 **07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In Onyx black with Madrid black/grey interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, front fogs, colour coded bumpers, only 29,405 miles **£8,495**

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05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£11,995**

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04 **54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.** In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles **£7,995**

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04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles **£6,995**

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05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£11,995**

04 **54 AUDI TT Coupe 1.8 T Quattro (225).** In ebony black met, with full black leather, alicantara upholstery, heated seats, trip computer, climate, traction control, 6 cd auto changer, only 68,710 miles **£11,995**

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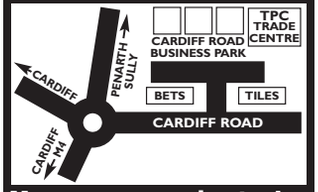

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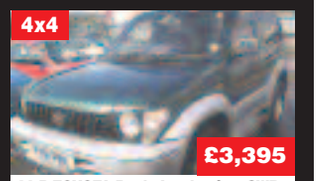

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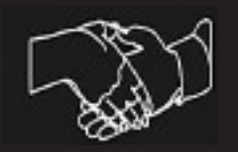

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03 Ford KA 1.3 Collection 3dr (a/c) in silver met, low mileage with e/windows, pas, ONLY Group 3 insurance £2,995

07 AUDI Q7 S-Line Quattro TDI in black, S Line Auto DSG. 35,000 miles. Loaded £27,995

07 BMW 320i SE Cabriolet black met, NEW SHAPE convertible, 16,000 miles, FBMWSH, e/w, a/c, climate £19,995

07 MERCEDES C320 CDI 3.0 Avantgarde SE Diesel in black met, 2007, DIESEL, 28K, FMBSH, leather, SAT NAV, COMMAND £16,995

06 BMW 325I M Sport I Drive (Navigation) in black, ONLY 35,000 miles FSH. M Sport with I Drive/ sat nav £15,995

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52 AUDI 120 in black met. Loaded with BOSE Stereo, alloys, leahter, climate a/c £8,995

08 VAUXHALL Corsa SRI 1.7 CDTI 5dr (New) in red. NEW SHAPE 5dr DIESEL. Loaded 17" alloys, a/c, FHS £8,995

55 VOLKSWAGEN Passat 2.0 SE TDI 140 Estate 5dr Diesel in grey met, NEW SHAPE DIESEL, ESTATE 5dr. Loaded £8,995

55 TOYOTA Avensis Estate 2.2 D-4D TSpirit 5dr (Nav & Lthr) in silver pearl, unmarked, NEW Generation 2.2 D4-D DIESEL. Loaded leather, climate £8,995

09 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style (New) in red, NEW SHAPE covered ONLY 5,000 miles. Stunning with CD, Ipod Dock £8,995

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54 MINI Cooper 1.6 Auto 3dr John Cooper Special Edition in British racing green metallic, with white wheel/ roof pk. Auto £8,495

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08 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 5dr in black met, anthracite pack. ONLY 23K FSH. Alloys, a/c £7,495

55 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.9 DTI (120) Life Diesel (7str) in black, NEW SHAPE 5dr 7 seater DIESEI. 60 K 120 BHP, beautiful condition £6,995

56 PEUGEOT 307 1.4 5dr. Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088, or call Tim on 07815 737694. Part exchange welcome, and many finance packages available £6,995

56 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 T Spirit 3dr in silver met, new shape, ONLY 25,000 miles. FTSH. Top of the range with a/c, CD MP3 WMA, e/w, loaded £6,995

57 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v SE Breeze Panoramamic in silver, ONLY 1.2, NEW SHAPE with panoramic roof, loaded £6,995

07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Sport 5dr (a/c) in black met, NEW SHAPE, only 38k. FSH. Low insurance, alloys, a/c £6,995

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05 RENAULT Clio 2.0 Renaultsport 182 in silver. ONLY 48,000 miles FSH. Loaded 182 BHP £6,995

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56 VAUXHALL Astra NEW 1.8 16v Design AUTO 5dr in silver met. NEW SHAPE auto ONLY 32k Unmarked, a/c privacy glass £6,495

56 SUZUKI Swift 1.6 VVTS GLX 5dr in kashmir sparkle blue. NEW SHAPE covered ONLY 20,000 excellent car with Full service history £6,495

56 PEUGEOT 1007 1.6 Sport Urban Easytronic (Auto) in grey, 6K, automatic sliding doors, with easy access, climate with air con £5,995

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55 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Winter Pack in silver covered ONLY 46,000 miles. Top of the range, leather, a/c £5,995

06 FORD Fiesta 1.4-16v Zetec Climate in mauve purple metallic, 22,000 miles ONE OWNER EXAMPLE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY. CD , air con £5,995

04 RENAULT Clio 2.0 16v RenaultSport 182 in silver Gen 182, 51,000 miles FSH. Stunning cond, every extra £5,995

07 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive 3dr in black met ONLY 32,000 miles. Semi Auto, alloys, CD, pas, e/w £5,995

05 RENAULT Modus 1.5 DCI 80 Dynamique in red metallic, DIESEL covered ONLY 47,000 miles. Low tax+ins. Loaded, alloys, a/c £5,995

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J MERCEDES 600 SEL V12 Auto in grey met. Loaded V12 model. FULL MB Service History. Rare car £4,995

03 HYUNDIA Coupe 2.0 SE in blue with black leather. Low mileage with alloys, a/c. Excellent example £4,995

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02 PEUGEOT 206 CC 2.0 Allure [AC] [Ithr] moonstone silver met, 65k, full leather FSH. Stunning example £4,995

04 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 3dr Quicksilver in silver ONLY 37K, FSH. Ltd EDITION, LOW INSURANCE model. A/c, alloys, PAS £4,995

04 RENAULT Megane 1.9 Sport Tourer DCI 5dr Estate Diesel in red, DIESEL late model estate, FULL LEATHER, air con £4,795

02 BMW 316ti Compact SE Automatic (Leather) in obsidian black met, stunning AUTO, full leather, a/c, climate, alloys £4,495

04 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2E 5dr in silver met, ONLY 54,000 miles FSH. Unmarked, LOW INSURANCE, cheap road tax. Power steering, windows £4,495

X BMW 530I SE Auto [E39] f/lift in silver with FULL black leather. Face lift, AUTO 88K, FSH. Unmarked £4,495

52 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 E 3dr in silver met, late shape low insurance model. ONLY 50K £3,995

02 FORD Focus 1.6 LX Automatic 5dr (a/c) in blue met, AUTOMATIC, 5dr ONLY 48,000 miles, FSH. Alloys, climate pk £3,495

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04 FORD KA 1.3 3dr in ice green met, 2004 model, ONLY 65,000 miles. PAS £2,995

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Y TOYOTA Corolla 1.4 VVTI GLS in blue, ONLY 58,000 miles. 5dr very economical 1.4, a/c, e/w £2,795

03 ROVER Streetwise 1.4 S 3dr in red met, ONLY 62,000 miles. STUNNING con £2,795

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W FORD KA 1.3 3dr Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088, or call Tim on 07815 737694. Part exchange welcome, and many finance packages available £1,995

X RENAULT Megane 1.4 RT Alize 5dr In bornite grey met, 5dr low insurance hatch. ONLY 62,000 miles FSH £1,995

M BMW 316ti Compact Auto 3dr Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088, or call Tim on 07815 737694. Part exchange welcome, and many finance packages available £1,995

S ROVER 200 1.2 SE 3dr in green met. One owner, 42k, low insurance 1.1 mode. Excellent condition £1,995

Y DAEWOO Lanos 1.6 SX 5dr (a/c) in red, 51,000 miles. Alloys, air con, e/w, PAS £1,995

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P MAZDA MX-3 1.8 V6 Coupe 3dr Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088, or call Tim on 07815 737694. Part exchange welcome, and many finance packages available £1,495

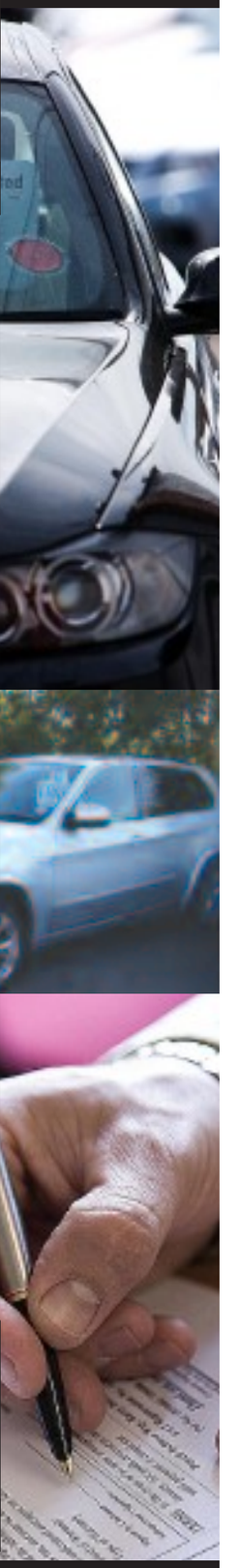
C NISSAN Cherry 1.3 SGL 3dr Completely original car covered ONLY 31,000 miles. FULL SERVICE HISTORY, 12 months MOT £995

51 Chrysler PT Cruiser 2.0 Touring L Edition in green met, ONLY 51K Chrome Pack, air con, e/windows £2,995

03 Vauxhall Agila 1.0 12v 5-dr in blue met, ONLY 39,000 miles. FSH. 5-dr, 1.0 low insurance £2,883

Y SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16v Chill 5-dr. Silver met, only 46k, low insurance, a/c £2,000

V FORD Puma 1.7 16v Sport in blue met, excellent value 1.7 Sport, a/c, alloys £1,995



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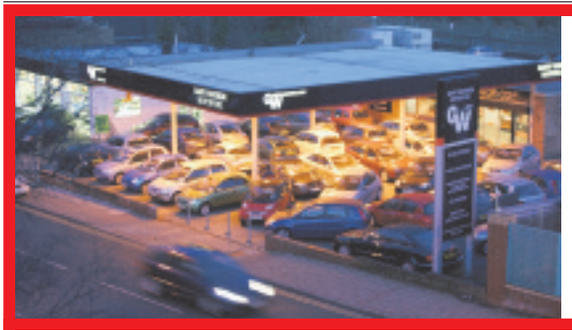

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51	**AUDI A4 2.0 SE Sportsline** in silver, 71,000 miles, superb example at	**£4,995**
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55	**VW Golf 1.4 FSi 5-dr.** In electric blue, superb looking car with 18" alloys and low insurance	**£6,995**
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56	**SUZUKI Swift 1.3 GL 5-dr** in met silver, 10.000 miles, superb throughout	**£6,295**
07	**SMART Passion Auto 699cc.** In silver over met-blue, 20,000 miles on offer at	**£5,995**
56	**FIESTA 125 Style Climate 3-dr.** In white, 33,000 miles with navy blue ST side stripes	**£5,995**
05	**FIESTA 1.4 TDCi Ghia 5-dr.** Black with black leather trim, 49,000 miles, diesel economy	**£5,695**
54	**RENAULT Megane VVTi Privilage Auto 5-dr.** In met grey with half leather tri, low mileage	**£5,495**
55	**SUZUKI Swift 1.3 GL 3-dr.** In met blue with white stripes, 47,000 miles, sporty economical hatch at	**£4,995**
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55	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-dr.** In met black, 25,000 miles, very desirable	**£4,995**
04	**FIESTA 1.4 Flame 3-dr.** In black, low mileage local car at	**£4,995**
05	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Twin Port SXi.** In met silver, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner	**REDUCED BY £300 TO £4,695**
05	**PEUGEOT 206 145 5-dr.** Black, 50,000 miles, a/c, cd, etc	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
03	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression Auto** in black, 1 owner, 31,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £200 TO £4,295**
54	**CITROEN C2 1.1LX 3-dr.** In met red with cd etc, local car on offer at	**£3,995**
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03	**MAZDA 323F 1.6 GS** in electric blue, 76,000 miloes, reliable hatch at	**£3,495**
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N	**SAAB 93 S Convertible Auto.** leather, alloys, a/c, lady owner, nice example	£2495
H	**TOYOTA MR2 2.0 GT Auto.** Just 55k, Targa top roof, CD system, alloys, superb condition	£1795

06 FORD Mondeo 2.2 TDCi Titanium Estate. Fsh, a/c, alloys, suede/leather, multi cd, superb mpg.

52 VOLVO S60 2.4 Diesel D5 SE. FSH, full leather, alloys, multi-CD, multiple air bags, fantastic MPG.

02 FORD Focus 1.6 Chic. 3 door, 70k, s/history, alloys, full leather, a/c, cd system, rare car.

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GEM sport

It's a 13-goal thriller as Cowbridge fight back against Penarth

COWBRIDGE Town seniors travelled to Penarth in desperate need of three points after a series of poor results had seen them slip down the league table.

Injuries and availability meant the wafer-thin squad was limited to just 11 players for what was, on paper, a difficult fixture against high-flying Penarth Town.

Unbelievably Cowbridge goalkeeper Wyndham Howells broke down en route to the ground, so centre back Matt Little gamely donned the gloves.

Cowbridge were forced to change formation and went with five in midfield.

Debutant Gethin Still joined town's established midfield pairing of Craig Burrows and Lloyd Lewis, Nic Vaile and Will Giles played wide and striker Jack Gavin led the line alone.

What followed was a mixture of the sublime and the ridiculous. Penarth took an early lead after a defensive mix up, but Cowbridge were level within minutes after Gavin beat his man on the left side of the penalty area before finishing neatly.

Penarth once again took the lead after an uncharacteristic slip from Mark Rollings allowed the striker a clean run on goal, and he made no mistake.

The lead for Penarth was frankly, unjustified. Cowbridge were dominating the proceedings and passing the ball as well as they had all season.

They soon had their deserved equaliser after left back Phil Harris passed to Gavin, who turned and fired in a powerful drive from 22 yards for his second.

The second half was an absolutely phenomenal spectacle for the sizeable crowd who had braved the rapidly deteriorating elements, with nine goals scored between the two sides.

Cowbridge started the second half in incredibly sloppy manner and soon found themselves 4-2 down, the fourth goal a fantastic strike from the Penarth winger.

Just minutes later, left-back Harris' cross deceived the Penarth keeper to sneak in under the bar and give town a foothold.

An equaliser seemed inevitable and duly came after a strong run from Vaile down the left gave Gavin the opportunity to complete his hat-trick.

Vaile again caused more problems for the Penarth right-back, this time forcing a save from the keeper which fell invitingly at the feet of Lloyd Lewis, whose precise finish gave Cowbridge the lead.

Penarth grabbed an equaliser after a free-kick eluded everybody to sneak in at the far post to make the score 5-5.

Gethin Still, making his debut after recently returning from a jaunt in Canada, scored a fantastic goal, cutting inside from the left and unleashing an unstoppable shot from 25 yards to give town a 6-5 lead.

Incredibly there was still time for more drama. Penarth showed great character to drag themselves back into the game yet again to level at 6-6

Cowbridge pushed on and in a frantic finish, Nic Vaile showed a touch of class as he grabbed the winner his performance deserved with a strike from the edge of the box to give Cowbridge a richly deserved three points after an absolutely pulsating football match.

Final score:
Cowbridge 7 Penarth 6.

J.G.

Squash A team keep up their league challenge

THE Cowbridge A Bar 44 squash team put together another fine home performance to win 19-6 against Monmouth A, and now stand in striking distance for the top of the South Wales Division Two East league – four points adrift with two matches to play.

All is set for a showdown at Caldicot in the final league fixture for this half of the season.

Paul Reynish (No 5) and Niall Sloan (No 4) started proceedings with varying degrees of success. The former raced off to a 2-0 lead, but must have been feeling the effects of his previous night's battle in his usual B team role and went down 2-3.

Niall Sloan dropped the third game 3-9 after also taking a 2-0 lead, but fought through to win the tie-break fourth game to win 3-1.

Both Garfield Leask (No 3) and Jon Bisson (No 2) got back to winning ways to record 3-1 wins having both started shakily at 0-1, but then found their rhythm.

Nick Guard (No 1) made fairly short work of his opponent to win 3-0 (9-2, 9-1, 9-6).

Cowbridge B Bar 44 were six wins from six matches going in to their second versus first encounter at Fairwater A. Skipper Russ Watts started the battle for the top of the league, but it is no surprise that Stella Artois have shown little interest in using Russ' current brand of squash to endorse their product! – the No 5 going down 0-3.

However, Steve Morris' performance at No 4 was certainly worthy of branding – with a comprehensive beating of Fairwater No 4, Tony Baird (9-3, 9-1, 9-4).

Chris Ranger (No 3) was approaching this match with some good form (previously unbeaten) but seemed hampered by an arm injury that no amount of 'deep heat' could put right – also going down 0-3.

This scoreline was echoed by Paul Reynish at No 2 and so the match was lost before No 1 Simon Payne stepped up to play. He managed to score a couple of points for the team but eventually went down 2-3 (4-9 in the fifth – team match score 5-17).

The C team have struggled to find points for mid-table safety in their last two matches, going down 2-3 at home to David Lloyd B (match score 8-17) with battling wins for Dave Matthews and Colin Giles (both 3-2 at Nos 2 and 1 respectively).

The following week, they found themselves on the end of a 0-5 hiding at table-toppers Rhiwbina D (match score 5-20 – again Dave and Colin fought away for four of those points). This match saw the welcome return to the court of Hugh Wallace and Andy Littlejohn to hopefully strengthen the C team's hopes in the final matches against relegation-threatened Cardiff University B and Llanishen C.

This week (Thursday) Llantrisant B travel to Cowbridge Athletic Ground to take on the As while Cowbridge Bs travel to Barry Leisure A (Wednesday) and the Cs travel to the University courts at Senghennydd Road, Cardiff.

RUSS WATTS

Pumas caged – now Wales are set to run down Wallabies

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

WHILE the Wales camp rightly had cause for satisfaction at mission accomplished against Argentina, they also know that there is still much to be done in the final match of the autumn series against Australia on Saturday.

Yes, there can be no doubt that last weekend's 33-16 victory over notoriously difficult opponents that were rated above them in the world rugby rankings, was a notable achievement, but it is also true that this richly-talented Welsh team has yet to fire smoothly on all cylinders and realise its maximum potential.

First, though, the positives, and there are quite a few: the front five took on the formidable Pumas and matched them in the tight (with a little help, perhaps, from the Irish referee!) which then released the back row to contest the loose exchanges and thus free the vastly superior Welsh backs to create opportunities in attack.

For once, the lineout was not a weakness and with plentiful ball and territory gained in all phases, the home team were quickly in the ascendancy.

At the interval, it was 13-3 – all the home points coming from Stephen Jones, having one of his best all-round games for Wales, including a rare solo try after just eight minutes.

It seemed that only the Pumas' man-of-the-match skipper Lobbe stood between Wales and a landslide scoreline.

More satisfying still was the end of Wales' recent try famine – with three touchdowns, including two by the mercurial Shane Williams.

All in all, then, a well-deserved victory gained through a non-stop physical effort that had the Pumas almost out on their feet by the end, as Welsh fitness told on opponents who had been under the cosh from the opening whistle.

However, Warren Gatland and his coaching team also know that many of the frustrating weaknesses that hold Wales back from full expression of their undoubted qualities remain.

As already seen in the previous two autumn matches, the error count is still unacceptably high for a team striving to be in world rugby's top tier.

Consistency, control and precision continue to be the three elusive targets as this young Welsh squad look beyond the autumn 'friendlies' to encounters of a more meaningful kind in the Six Nations – and, ultimately, the World Cup.

Unsurprisingly, given that Wales are determined to persevere with a high tempo approach, despite rugby's current obsession with aerial ping-pong, the quicksilver Dwayne Peel has been recalled at half back.

With this in mind, Gatland has also kept faith with young Jonathan Davies at inside centre, as a foil to Jamie Roberts, in preference to fit again Tom Shanklin.

It is a team that should take the field brimming with confidence against an Australian side that has not exactly distinguished itself so far on tour.

WALES TEAM: James Hook, Leigh Halfpenny, Jamie Roberts, Jonathan Davies, Shane Williams, Stephen Jones, Dwayne Peel; Gethin Jenkins, Matthew Rees, Paul James, Alun-Wyn Jones, Luke Charteris, Andy Powell, Martyn Williams, Ryan Jones (captain).

***Replacements*: Huw Bennett, Duncan Jones, Jonathan Thomas, Dan Lydiate, Martin Roberts, Andrew Bishop, Tom James.**

Matt gets bronze in 'dry-land' British kayak championships

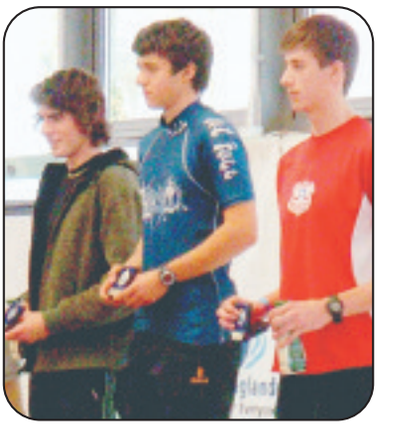
MATT Robinson of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School came third in the 200 metres, and fourth in the 2,000 metres last weekend at the British Indoor Kayak Championships.

In these championships, competitors 'race' on land-based kayak ergo machines, with the winner recording the fastest time.

They tackle a number of distances and the event took place over two days at Brunel University, Uxbridge.

Matt's third place medal was presented to him by the Olympic Gold medal winner, Tim Brabants.

Matt has been kayaking for about four years, trains at Cardiff Bay Kayak Club and is coached by Richard Rogers.



ABOVE:
Matt Robinson (third from right) on the podium.

ABOVE: Jack Anderson pictured with his gold medal at the judo competition.

Judo Jack returns with gold

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Jack Anderson from Llantwit Major won a gold metal in The Irish Open International Judo Competition in Dublin.

He was in a tough category with 15 other boys, and some were up to 30kgs heavier.

Jack fought with impressive skill and won all six fights outright not allowing any of his opponents to score any points. He was then in the final against the largest of the boys who was 30 kgs heavier than Jack, but yet again he fought excellently for an outright win, which secured the gold medal.

Jack has been doing judo since he was five years old, and currently trains at EGH Judokan, Llantrisant, and Sully Budokan, Sully.

Jack has been a member of the British Squad for several years and is not new to international events as he also attained gold in Belgium last November and gold in the Kent International in Crystal Palace in June.

He has now been selected by the Welsh Judo Association for their development squad.

In the last four years, Jack has medalled in 36 out of the 38 competitions he has entered, which is an impressive result.

He has his heart set on continuing to improve, and his ambition is to represent Britain in the Olympics in years to come.